

JPRS-LAM-85-085

4 October 1985

Latin America Report



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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4 October 1985

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ARGENTINA

COORDINATING BOARD: POLITICAL FORCE WITHIN UCR

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 7 May 85 pp 16-17

[Article by Luis Castellanos]

[Text] Enrique "Coti" Nosiglia (usually reluctant to receive the press or to allow his photograph to be taken) could not conceal his happiness on the night of the first Monday. That day, it was learned that the National Coordinating Board (which has him as its top-ranking leader in the district) had made a genuine "sweep" in the Federal Capital internal elections, winning in 24 out of the 28 contesting parishes.

Nosiglia devoted his first remarks to giving assurance that notary Jorge Gomez (current head of the capital committee) would be reelected to the post, and claiming that the results "demonstrate the Coordinating Board's really representative status in the party, dispelling the criticism that was made of us, that we were elitists, and called for a structure of cadres dissociated from the rank and file members."

Nosiglia's joy was not dimmed by any unpleasant incidents such as those which occurred in connection with the electoral campaign before the elections of Sunday, 30 June, including shooting attacks upon party premises, which did not result in any fatalities.

In Santa Fe, on the other hand, it was a different story. There, Deputy Luis "Changui" Caceres, representing the Coordinating Board, clearly won over his opponent, the also Deputy Roberto Silva (with 16 districts out of 19). But whereas in the federal capital the victory of Nosiglia's backers appears to have received the approving wink of President Raul Alfonsin, "Changui's" success does not seem to have been hailed in the same manner. Over a month ago, the president assigned Cesar Jaroslavsky (who failed in the endeavor) to mend lines in the agitated Santa Fe district. In view of Caceres' refusal of any agreement, Alfonsin was reportedly heard to remark: "Whoever wins, no representative from Santa Fe will join the national committee."

There are no similarities between what occurred in the capital and in Santa Fe with respect to attacks either. There was shooting in that province too, but the result was a handful of injured (in the photo, Miguel Moncada, aged 20,

a member of Silva's forces), and the challenging of the elections on the part of those who were defeated.

In the light of the results in the federal capital and Santa Fe, and the agreements reached in Buenos Aires Province, with the exception of the city of La Plata (see inset on the next page), a new party map is apparently starting to be drawn in the Radical Party.

Its prominent features are the bolstering of the National Coordinating Board, the advent of a young leadership in Buenos Aires Province (Juan Manuel Casella-Leopoldo Moreau) and the division of the Cordoba Line.

To be added to this is another phenomenon that is no less indicative of the "generational transfer" that has occurred in the Radical Party, exemplified by the rise of the young Rosario governor, Horacio Usandizaga (Renewal and Change) over traditional political chiefs such as Roberto Silva and Jorge Costarelli.

The strength of the leaders who have emerged during the past decade from the university and youth membership has not failed to concern the old Radical leaders who founded the Movement for Renewal and Change, and who are described as "historicals" to distinguish them from their opponents. Intense rumors indicate that certain governors displaced from the current alliances (Ricardo Barrios Arrechea from Misiones, ousted by Casella in his ambition to become Alfonsín's heir is a well-known example) may be considering the formation of a federalist movement within the party.

This notion is reportedly shared, among others, by the governor of Entre Ríos, Sergio Montiel (an opponent of Cesar Jaroslavsky, the president's confidante, in the internal elections), and Cesar Angeloz, who has just suffered, in his province (Cordoba) the splitting of his party machine by individuals associated with the powerful alliance comprised of Nosiglia and Casella, on the national level.

There is no doubt that the "Coordinating sweep" (as its members are starting to call it) was the most overwhelming in the federal capital. There, the patient effort for alliances planned by Enrique Nosiglia made possible major affiliations, such as that of Carlos Bello (La Boca), during the final days, and the reaching of agreements with the other internal movements.

The result has been that the Coordinating Board took 65 of the 112 positions on the capital committee, and its allies took an additional 20, leaving 27 for its opponents.

This victory will preclude debates when it is time to decide on the list of candidates for national deputies representing the capital, in the elections on 3 November of this year. Following the results of Sunday, 30 June, the list will consist, first, of Marcelo Stubrin, followed by Enrique Vanossi, Carlos Bello and Enrique García Vazquez.

There are some who claim that the former president of the Central Bank might enter the slate as the third member; however, his name still evokes resistance among large sectors of the Coordinating Board.

The major loser in his stronghold of Belgrano (district 16) was Deputy Guillermo Tello Rosas, one of the few young leaders who opted to oppose Nosiglia's forces.

Finally, in the winners' car there must be included Deputy Jesus Rodriguez, who received backing for his leadership post from the Radical Youth National Committee.

Buenos Aires: Zero Hour

In Buenos Aires Province (where the internal elections will be held on Sunday, 7 July) what is being debated is basically parish top leadership positions, particularly in the critical district of La Plata (38,000 members).

The four major lines comprising the internal map of the Radical Party in that district are: Renewal and Change (Juan Manuel Casella-Leopoldo Moreau), National Coordinating Board (Federico Storani), National Integration Movement (Juan Carlos Pugliese) and National Line (Cesar Garcia Puente).

After lengthy negotiations, the majority sector of Renewal and Change has succeeded in establishing nine candidates for national deputy among the first 16 on the list, 13 candidates for membership on the national committee out of 24, and two candidates for the national committee out of a total of four. Casella will be the future chairman of the provincial committee, Moreau the first national candidate representing the district (he must revalidate his present mandate in the November elections) and Storani one of the four provincial representatives on the party's national committee.

This being the case, it remains to fathom the causes of Sunday's election and the bitter election campaign headed in the provincial capital by the present governor, Juan Carlos Alberti (who claims to have Casella's approving wink) and the Coordinating Board's provincial leader, Federico Storani. La Plata (erstwhile indisputable stronghold of Ricardo Balbin) now includes within it three internal Radical Party movements. Apart from the first two (the one led by Governor Alberti and the one with a majority on the Coordinating Board, with the affiliation of the National Integration Movement and National Line), also to appear in the elections (although in only three electoral districts) is the minority Popular Movement, which accuses the foregoing, equally, of "having staked in this internal election the institutional factors of democracy, such as the governorship and the Ministry of Social Action of the province." Its leading personage is Raul Mor Roig, son of the former interior minister who was assassinated by terrorists.

The accusation seems very severe; but it is true that the cost of the election campaign appears to be far exceeding the limits of a mere internal election, and the aggressiveness (including fist-fighting, the use of chains and several threats) has been the constant feature.

For example, the governor papered the city with signs, now known as "Alberti's triangles." One of them shows a triangle with a broad base, bearing the slogan "Renewal and Change, with popular bases." The other one shows an inverted triangle representing the lack of representative status of the Coordinating Board's members.

The humorous response from that sector's members was reflected in signs on which the governor was depicted (also geometrically) as "a square."

The controversy has been raised, because all of Juan Manuel Casella's efforts to mend the divisions have proven futile in the capital district. Both Alberti and Storani claim that they will win an indisputable victory, and predict differences ranging between 5,000 and 8,000 votes in their favor. To be sure, mathematics can only prove one of the sectors right. On Sunday, zero hour will arrive in Buenos Aires.

2909

CSO: 8148/2057

BOLIVIA

COMIBOL COMANAGEMENT PLAN SAID TO HAVE FAILED

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Aug 85 p 7

[Text] The comanagement directorate of COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] does not have representatives from the new government. The past representatives ended their duties on 6 August when the government of Dr Victor Paz Es-tenssoro took office.

As of yesterday, the past representatives had not attended to their assigned tasks as representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy, the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Finance since any decisions they made would not be valid.

The comanagement directorate has a labor majority with four union delegates and three government representatives.

The representatives of the past government were Ivan Zegada, Carlos Cardona and Oscar Olmedo. The latter was subsequently replaced by Manuel Diez Canseco. The comanagement delegates appointed by the Mineworkers Federation are Victor Lopez, Jose Pimentel, Jorge Duran and Enrique Herrera. The first is also vice president of the comanagement directorate. The vice president is appointed by the government from three names submitted by the Mineworkers Federation.

Two Years of Comanagement

The comanagement directorate with a labor majority was institutionalized in COMIBOL in September 1983. In April 1983, the workers and the FSTMB [Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers] had intervened in COMIBOL because there was a strike by technicians in that enterprise. The workers organized an administration council to direct the enterprise. The government issued a supreme decree institutionalizing the majority comanagement in September 1983.

According to the former minister of mining and metallurgy, Luis Pommier, the results of comanagement in 1985 will be disastrous since the state mining enterprise might have a loss of \$300 million by the end of this year.

Tin production should go down to less than half of the previous year, according to Minister Pommier's estimates. He said that the comanagement "failed because it had only labor participation, not technical."

Revitalization

According to reports by spokesmen of the comanagement directorate of COMIBOL, the enterprise has constantly demanded that the government pass measures for its revitalization.

It had asked the previous government for a 15-year moratorium on COMIBOL's foreign debt and the transfer of the balance of the internal debt since it had been more than paid by the differences in the exchange rate at the Central Bank.

Financing was also requested for mining and metallurgical projects aimed at diversification of the mining production of the enterprise and, especially, foreign currency for COMIBOL exports to cover imports of materials and supplies.

It was maintained that one of the main reasons for the enterprise's difficult situation is the "tremendous gap between the official exchange rate and the capricious speculative spiral of the parallel market." Failure to allocate foreign currency impeded the timely purchase of materials, parts and food products for the grocery stores. This contributed to the drop in production which leads to decapitalization.

The current labor comanagement directorate attributes COMIBOL's deficit situation "to the lack of foresight of past administrations. Comanagement kept this from getting worse. With exemplary behavior from the mineworker bases, work stoppages in many centers were prevented despite the lack of mechanical and food supplies."

7717

CSO: 3348/916

BOLIVIA

ENAF CLAIMS COMIBOL WITHHOLDING NEEDED RAW MATERIALS

La Paz HOY in Spanish 15 Aug 85 p 15

[Text] Oruro, 14 Aug--The new general manager of ENAF [National Smelting Enterprise] will be sworn in tomorrow in La Paz by the minister of mining and metallurgy. According to executive sources in ENAF, he will undertake dynamic work to achieve a normal supply of tin concentrates for the Vinto metallurgical complex.

They indicated that the mines have accumulated mineral reserves worth \$300 million. This "must not be exported because it would cause the bankruptcy of ENAF."

They added that the tin concentrates that were accumulated for different reasons should be kept from leaving the country by any means within the power of the authorities and workers. Otherwise, it would be "a clear demonstration of the failure of the foundries in Bolivia."

The executives explained that COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] has not delivered any of its minerals, especially tin, to ENAF since May 1985.

COMIBOL's administrative comanagement put a hold on all its production centers.

It was indicated that an appreciable quantity of minerals, \$100 million worth, had been accumulated by the end of June. Considering production in July and part of August, the current accumulation of concentrates must be worth \$300 million.

The failure to deliver minerals to ENAF is due basically to the fact that the state pays "67,000 Bolivian pesos per dollar generated in mineral production or processing." This leads to a considerable loss since supplies, food, materials, parts, equipment and medicine are purchased with the parallel dollar.

7717
CSO: 3348/916

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

COMIBOL DENIES ENAF CHARGES--Through its authorized spokesmen, COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] announced yesterday that it is not true that it has suspended deliveries of tin concentrates to the national foundry since last May and that, as a result of that interruption, it has concentrates worth \$100 million stored. They noted: "That report is false and exaggerated since COMIBOL estimates the marketing of all its production for the current year at \$250 million." They also stated that COMIBOL, the generator of resources that made metallurgy and the creation of ENAF [National Smelting Enterprise] a reality in the country, is aware of the need to consolidate a real mining and metallurgical policy. Therefore, it could ill afford to play the speculative game of private mining sectors. [Text] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Aug 85 p 3] 7717

CSO: 3348/916

BRAZIL

SARNEY'S OCTOBER UN ADDRESS, POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGES VIEWED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Aug 85 p 4

[Article by Carlos Chagas]

[Text] President Jose Sarney's private secretarial staff is beginning to compile ideas for drafting the speech he will deliver in New York in October at the opening of the U.S. General Assembly. The presidential palace wants the speech to be concise and rational without appeals to emotionalism or demagoguery, but hard-hitting and sharp. Sarney refuses to attempt to assume any form of Latin American leadership or to head the group of debtor countries but is expected to expound the impossibility of the present economic order remaining as it is in the capitalist world. He will reiterate the line voiced by General Joao Figueiredo years ago in the same forum, although he does not wish to restrict himself to rhetoric. Here perhaps lies the great difference of the two roles, or rather, of the two governments, or perhaps even, of the two republics: the old and the new. The proposal will be to present concrete suggestions, practical measures that can be discussed in an international forum and debated, especially at the Brasilia-Washington axis level, producing results.

The speech will not be essentially economic but political, and will be based on statements by leaders of the industrialized and developed countries, beginning with Henry Kissinger. We do not represent an economic risk but, conversely, we will be an inevitable political risk without profound changes in the North-South relationship, at least on this side of the globe.

It is speculated or suggested that on the occasion of its president's speech before the United Nations, Brazil should define the basic lines of its proposals to the IMF and the creditors even though he would be addressing the representatives of the rich countries. The impact of decisions capable of having political repercussions must have governments rather than banks and international agencies as its target. It does not befit a president of the republic to personally conduct negotiations on the foreign debt but the basic guidelines of what we consider fair and possible will be expounded by Jose Sarney; not only the complaints and grievances but especially practical actions. Only after October would the missions headed by the finance minister and the president of the Central Bank, charged with seeking out the IMF and the banks, leave the federal capital.

There is an internal political connotation in the conception of this gesture. If everything should turn out right, if the speech should have the desired impact, being welcomed or even ignored outside, Sarney will return to Brazil with increased popularity, more or less as a sort of hero, like an explorer who returns from the lions' den. It will perhaps be the moment for him to make some adjustments in his cabinet and not wait for May 1986--the deadline for the ministers who are candidates in next year's elections to relinquish their duties--in order to begin arranging the main personnel of his federal administration team in his own fashion. There is every indication that the following ministers will request their resignations in May: Olavo Setubal, of foreign affairs (candidate for the governorship of Sao Paulo); Fernando Lyra, of justice (candidate for congress or the governorship of Pernambuco); Afonso Camargo Netto, of transportation (candidate for congress or the governorship of Parana); Pedro Simon, of agriculture (candidate for the governorship of Rio Grande do Sul); Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, of communications (candidate for congress or the governorship of Bahia); Aureliano Chaves, of mines and energy (candidate for congress or the governorship of Minas Gerais); Carlos Sant'Ana, of health (candidate for congress); Waldir Pires, of social welfare (candidate for congress); Renato Archer, of science and technology (candidate for congress); Flavio Peixoto, of urban development (candidate for congress or the governorship of Goias); Paulo Lustosa, of debureaucratization (candidate for congress); and Aluisio Alves, of administration (candidate for congress or the governorship of Rio Grande do Norte). Those are the sure ones, those who have already declared their intention of not remaining as ministers. There is still a possibility regarding Marco Macial, Nelson Ribeiro, Aluisio Pimenta, Jose Hugo Castello Branco, Roberto Gusmao and Almir Pazzianotto. The minister of education may be called back to the Palace of Princesses, just as the ministers of labor and of industry and commerce have a chance to vie for the governorship of Sao Paulo or, like the others, run for a seat in the Constituent Assembly, with the exception of Marco Maciel, whose senate term expires in 1990.

If 12 ministers are determined to give up being ministers at a date of their own choosing and if 6 others at least are hesitating, making a total of 18, it is obvious that the president of the republic is practically relieved of the obligation to keep them until the deadline. Above and beyond the law, which already permits him to appoint and dismiss, there is the political factor. He retained the cabinet named by Tancredo Neves and is trying to govern with it, but if each of them thinks of himself when it suits him, without any obligation to previous commitments, why cannot the reciprocal be true? Why not take advantage of a moment of even greater rise in popularity to correct, rectify and adjust part of the machinery under his command. The desired climax of national popularity and confidence will put Sarney in the best of positions to do so.

As for looking who will be "adjusted, corrected and rectified," that is another story. A reporter who would begin to make lists based on small clues or simple observations of the administrative and political performance of each one would be doing an injustice: one who is doing badly today

could be doing very well tomorrow and vice versa. Noteworthy is the fact that only nine ministers, including six military men, do not have plans to run in the 1986 elections. They are Admiral Henrique Saboia, of the navy; General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, of the army; Brigadier Octavio Moreira Lima, of aeronautics; Admiral Jose Maria do Amaral Oliveira, of the Armed Forces General Staff; General Bayma Denys, of the military household; and General Ivan de Souza Mendes, of the National Intelligence Service (SNI); in addition to Francisco Dornelles, of finance; Joao Sayad, of planning; and Ronaldo Costa Couto, of interior. Among the military, there may be one (or more than one?) who is thinking of elections; not in 1986 but in 1988. That possibility, however, will be left for another day...

8711

CSO: 3342/240

BRAZIL

AMARAL ON ESG CHIEF'S OPPOSITION TO CP LEGALIZATION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Aug 85 p 4

[Text] Commenting again on the statements of the commandant of the War College (ESG), General Euclides Figueiredo Filho, against the legalization of the communist parties, the minister-chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA), Admiral Jose Maria do Amaral Oliveira, said in Brasilia yesterday: "We are trying a democratic experiment. We are going to believe in it and not create machinations, trying to see things that are not there."

The minister cited as an example the fact that France, Spain, Italy and other Western democracies have their legalized communist parties. Despite the fact that the doctrine of the ESG is opposed to legalization because it would not be in accord with democratic principles, "the world has evolved much and so has Brazil," he added, explaining that the ESG is a school of civilians and military, currently conducting an evaluation of the National situation and democracy in Brazil. "It is General Euclides' own opinion. He is speaking in a context of free debate. He is not the tip of an iceberg," he emphasized.

In Admiral Amaral's opinion, there is no similarity between the current publicity surrounding the ESG commandant and that unleashed in 1955 by the statements of its deputy director, Colonel Bizarria Mamede who, at General Carombert's graveside made a speech denying the validity of Juscelino Kubitschek's election. Army Minister General Teixeira Lott tried to punish Mamede but was prevented from doing so by acting President Carlos Luz and by EMFA minister Brigadier Duncan Rodrigues. At that time, aide-de-camp to President Cafe Filho--withdrawn because he had suffered a heart attack--Amaral asserted that the incidents bear no similarity to one another; "the times are different."

Confirming Admiral Amaral's opinion are the disposition of the army not to interfere in the case and the neutral position of the EMFA itself. Furthermore, the discussion between the minister and president of the republic the day before yesterday attests to the fact that the government has no intention of stirring up a military crisis. The chief of the Armed Forces General Staff said: "As for General Euclides, Mister President, I believe he expressed his personal opinion." "And I believe so too," agreed Sarney. Both then sought to organize the visit which the president will make

to the War College (ESG) on 13 December for the class graduation, and also discuss the replacement of General Euclides, who will go into the reserve in October.

General Euclides Figueiredo Filho is in Vitoria for a talk to ESG students. Although he avoided engaging in interviews, he commented that he knows only the presidential palace version of the cancellation of President Sarney's visit to the ESG on the 20th. "Officially, the communique that I received from the presidency is that his schedule was too crowded."

A reporter insisted on knowing if the ESG commandant believed that "that was really the reason." "Inside I can think what I want to but publicly what I am going to say is that, the official information."

Later General Euclides refused to reply if he was going to react to the presidential palace's indifference. "What matters is democracy and I am going to speak about it tonight," he emphasized. Former President Figueiredo's brother regretted the report published by the CORREIO BRAZILIENSE to the effect that it had been commented at government headquarters that "the Right is grouped in the ESG." "What stupidity, what nonsense, since I am not even the one who does the selection..."

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BRAZIL

AD PACT MAINTAINED ONLY IN PORTO ALEGRE, MANAUS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Aug 85 p 7

[Text] "Whoever has the courage, determination and awareness of the cause he is embracing, here and now will be halfway along the road (Aureliano Chaves, 7 August 1984)." Between the time of that emotional phrase by the then vice president of the republic at the ceremony formally establishing the Democratic Alliance [AD] and the support of the same Aureliano for the candidacy of Janio Quadros of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] to the Sao Paulo Prefecture, many things have changed.

The pledge signed that day by the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and the Liberal Front Party [PFL] to insure the election of Tancredo Neves and Jose Sarney, has been dragging along for a year and now faces its most important test: the municipal elections in November. The contest for the prefectures, particularly those of the capitals, demonstrated that on a state and municipal level the interests of the PMDB and the PFL are different, although they have the same objective: Power. In search of that power, each party sought to have its own paths, forgetting the pledge signed in Brasilia by their leaders.

Among the large capitals, Porto Alegre is the only one maintaining the alliance. However, the cases where it has been broken, are more conspicuous, such being the case in Sao Paulo, where the PFL joined the PTB and now has the support of Aureliano and Marco Maciel, creators of the alliance and ministers of the Sarney Administration. And although politicians of prominence assert that it will survive at a federal level, the dream of Tancredo Neves of signing a commitment similar to the Spanish Pact of Moncloa in Brazil, appears to be increasingly remote, particularly so because behind the great test of the November elections come the elections of governors and president of the republic.

Old Differences Survive

Events in Sao Paulo appear to contradict the leaders of the PMDB and PFL in the state, Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Herbert Levy. While the parties are practically locked in a contest for the prefecture of the capital--the PFL is even in a coalition with the PTB of Janio Quadros--the two aver that the Democratic Alliance is going to pass the test of the November elections

and will be maintained at a federal level. Cardoso believes that the alliance may even be created in the state because he believes that the PFL is at this time undergoing a "Malufist relapse."

Cardoso declared: "What happened to the PFL was that there was a Malufist relapse in its provisional committee. The authentic liberals showed their dissatisfaction and supported the PMDB. Herbert Levy is an honorable man but he was surrounded by Maluf supporters." He believes it is an "optical illusion" to believe that by supporting Janio Quadros the PFL is helping the candidacy of Olavo Setubal for governor next year.

In turn, Herbert Levy believes that the AD did not win in Sao Paulo, as it did not win in the majority of the states, because local and regional political motives are stronger than any others. "Therefore, there appeared the most varied coalitions," he added, "however, in the majority it was the PMDB against the PFL, without that affecting the AD at a national level." According to him, the alliance will not be weakened because it is needed "for preserving and protecting the new national democracy."

That is not what Sao Paulo PTB President Deputy Vicente Botta thinks. To him the alliance will not survive the November elections because forces which are eyeing the Presidency of the Republic are involved in it. "And each of them wants to follow his own path: Montoro, Setubal, Marco Maciel," he commented. "How can an alliance which is competing for the same positions be maintained?"

Rio de Janeiro has the peculiar situation of having three candidates who claim to belong to the AD: Rubem Medino from the PFL, Jorge Leite from the PMDB, and Marcelo Cerqueira from the left and the PMDB dissidence. Events in the Carioca capital also appear to refute some politicians who still insist on maintaining the alliance, such as newsman Artur da Tavola, who proposes the unity of the three candidates around only one of them, or perhaps a fourth person. The idea could even be a good one, involving other opposition parties, however not because of the ideals of the alliance. There the common enemy is Governor Leonel Brizola, who everyone wants to defeat.

The problems are no less difficult in Belo Horizonte where the principles of the AD emerged from the Accord of Minas. Up to now Governor Helio Garcia has not managed to reunite the two parties, which are determined to fight for their own candidates. Garcia concluded by giving up and now says that the PFL candidate, Deputy Mauricio Campos, will be treated as an adversary of the PMDB. Even so, he maintains in his secretariats two men of the PFL, arguing that the AD does not depend on unity in the municipal contest.

Parana Governor Jose Richas also tried to maintain the alliance in his state, but failed. He said that the union between the PMDB and PFL had the democratization of the country as a goal with the election of Tancredo Neves, but that the differences between politicians of the two parties still remained in Parana. Richas insists, however, on adding that on a national

level, despite the municipal contests, the alliance should continue to insure the implantation of the plans of the New Republic. The dispute between the two parties in Curitiba is so serious that the PFL candidate to the prefecture, Reinhold Stephanes, asserted: "Here in Parana we would enter into agreements with all the parties except the PMDB."

The Alliance Never Existed

In some states such as Bahia and Rio Grande do Norte, the AD was not weakened--actually, on a state and municipal level it never existed. In Salvador, the PFL was created a few weeks ago, only because former Maluf supporters, unhappy at the control exercised by Antonio Carlos Magalhaes over the PDS [Social Democratic Party], decided to leave the party and create a "great anti-Carlos front" with the support of politicians linked to Governor Joao Durval. The situation is so peculiar in Bahia that former Maluf supporters, today liberals, dream that with the alliance they will elect the governor in 1986, defeating the candidate of Antonio Carlos or perhaps Antonio Carlos himself.

In Natal, coexistence between the PFL and the PMDB is practically impossible. After all, by supporting the candidacy of Tancredo Neves and the Liberal Front Party, Governor Agripino Maia had imposed the condition that he would not have to stand on the platform at the side of representatives of the local PMDB. When support of the Tancredo campaign was made official with a party, PMDB national president Ulysses Guimaraes did not attend either. Today the PFL is joined with the PDS in support of the candidacy of Wilma Maia for the prefecture of the capital.

It Worked Here

The alliance was more or less maintained in two capitals: Porto Alegre and Manaus. In the Rio Grande do Sul capital, one factor helped the PMDB/PFL union: their common enemy, Alceu Collares of the PDT. The two parties appear to be satisfied with the candidacy of Carrion Junior to the point where its vice president, Jose Fogaca, asserted that the coalition has the same objective that led to the creation of the alliance itself: "Redemocratization, now in the capital. We have all the backing of the federal government and we shall give it our backing."

Manaus, in turn, maintains the AD because of the actions of Governor Gilberto Mestrinho, who distributed posts and insured the participation of the two parties in the electoral contest. To Deputy Humberto Michiles of the PFL, the alliance even tends to consolidate in Amazonas. "Because in the elections for the prefecture of Manaus our support for the PMDB candidate had no electoral objective," he added. Governor Mestrinho did not need this or any other support, he would win the election by himself."

A Pledge

The AD is not a party nor a movement. It is a pledge of unity assumed on 7 August of last year by the PMDB and PFL, which insured the election of

Tancredo Neves and Jose Sarney. Also implicit in that pledge was the promise of a division of power and posts. This was so much so that Sarney is governing with ministries in which there are representatives of both parties. Based on that division, and with the state and federal political forces fighting for jobs, the split in the alliance began. It became more serious with the electoral dispute.

The possibility of an alliance being formed between the opposition and the government became more viable after the victory of Deputy Paulo Maluf at the PDS Convention, which nominated him as candidate for the presidency of the republic. Groups of party politicians, unhappy at the defeat of Mario Andreazza and even unhappier with the nomination of Maluf, became dissidents and formed the PFL. Among them were men such as Aureliano Chaves, at that time the vice president, and Marco Maciel. Jose Sarney was already a dissident before them. Agreements among Aureliano, Tancredo and Ulysses led the Liberal Front Party to support the PMDB candidacy to the electoral college. The agreements led to the signing of the document which formalized the Democratic Alliance, giving Tancredo the votes required for defeating Maluf.

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CSO: 3342/248

BRAZIL

SETUBAL ON DEBT SOLUTION, CUBAN, SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jul 85 p 26

[Article by Any Bourrier]

[Text] Paris--"Brazil holds to the position that market conditions are not favorable enough to solve the problem of the foreign debt and that, sooner or later, decisions will have to be taken beyond the market to alleviate the burden of the indebtedness which is strangling the Latin American people." This is how Olavo Setubal, Brazil's minister of foreign affairs, described the position of the Brazilian Government at the World Conference on Trade Preferences held in New Delhi.

Upon returning from the conference, Setubal made a stop in Paris and then continued to New York en route to Lima to attend the inauguration of Alan Garcia, the new Peruvian president. "Latin America's foreign debt will certainly be on the agenda of informal conversations in Lima," the minister said, "inasmuch as representatives of countries of the Cartagena Group will be present at Alan Garcia's inauguration." According to Olavo Setubal, "Peru's appearance before the IMF will be speeded up by the country's economic conditions and will be one more contributing factor in the search for an overall solution to the problem of Latin America's foreign indebtedness."

In Olavo Setubal's opinion, as stated at Roissy Airport in an interview with the Brazilian press, this overall solution is allegedly the political focal point of any negotiations on the foreign debt, since, "although the creditors reject any negotiation outside the technical levels of the markets and although the governments of the industrialized countries have maintained that this is a problem between the creditors and the indebted nations, the Cartagena Group is already discussing this solution as the political focal point."

The minister is afraid that the extent of the foreign debt "will cause the Latin American people to pressure the governments to negotiate the indebtedness in some other manner. If we want to maintain democratic, stable and openminded regimes on our continent," Setubal continued, "we must reach an agreement with the creditors to resolve the problem at a faster pace and yet provide the people with acceptable living conditions."

In the foreign minister's opinion, France is the only creditor nation which is maintaining an open and liberal position in the negotiations. Setubal believes that France will fully support the political negotiation of the debt inasmuch as "it was President Mitterrand who gave the most favorable response to the opening of political negotiations in his answer to the letter sent by the Cartagena Group to the summit meeting of the industrialized countries held in London in September. For this reason, the question of the foreign debt will be on the agenda of the meetings to be held between the French president and President Jose Sarney in October when Mitterrand visits Brazil."

Asked whether it was possible that the Itamarati might conduct the negotiations with the creditors, the minister pointed out that "negotiations with banks and institutions at the operational level are within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance and the Secretariat of Planning but that the political evaluation is made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the framework of the Cartagena agreement."

The re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Cuba is awaiting only a decision of the two governments with regard to the date. This is the conclusion which may be drawn from statements made by Olavo Setubal according to which "the studies made with respect to this matter are completed but no date has been set nor any decision reached."

The minister of foreign affairs plans to express his views with regard to tension in South Africa through a communique in which he will reiterate the position of the Brazilian Government concerning the Pretoria regime. Minister Setubal asserted in Paris that "Brazil will be resolute in its condemnation of the present living conditions in South Africa." According to the foreign affairs minister, whereas Brazil is not in position to take concrete measures against the Pretoria regime in keeping with the UN recommendations "inasmuch as it no longer has an ambassador in South Africa, it has nevertheless respected those recommendations by not selling arms or oil and not maintaining cultural and sports relations with that country of racial segregation."

In New Delhi, during the World Conference on Trade Preferences held among developing and underdeveloped countries, Brazil's minister of foreign affairs met with his colleagues in the ministries of foreign affairs, petroleum, agriculture and finance. He also signed a cooperative agreement providing for the development of trade relations between Brazil and India; in his interview Setubal pointed out that Brazil and India hold similar positions with regard to the principal political and economic problems brought up at the various international forums in which they are participating.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ravij Gandhi wants to diminish the trade deficit between the two countries, since Brazil exports 200 times more than it imports from India.

At the conclusion of the conference, the minister proposed that the decisions and results reached be forwarded for implementation to the executive committee operating in Geneva.

BRAZIL

LIBYAN DELEGATION TO PROPOSE AREAS OF TRADE EXPANSION

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 7 Aug 85 p 8

[Text] Libya is interested in reactivating its trade with Brazil, particularly in the sale of petroleum, and it offers Brazilian exporters an attractive market which includes items ranging from basic products to data processing, in addition to the acquisition of Brazilian technology. This is one of the main arguments the Libyan commission is going to present to PETROBRAS technicians in the meeting they will have at the end of this week.

The commission is in Brazil, where it participated in the Congress on International Arbitration sponsored by the National Trade Confederation for discussion of international trade laws. For the Libyans, the Brazilian experience in that area has been positive and should be observed closely.

The interest of the Libyans resides mainly in the area of petroleum and they believe that the decline in the purchases of their petroleum by Brazil is due to the increase in national production and the development of alcohol technology. In turn, Libya offers a wide access to Brazilian products, which already have great acceptance in the Libyan market.

As the Libyan ambassador in Brasilia, Farage Al Saaet pointed out: "Our interest in Brazil is due to the fact that both countries belong to the so-called Third World and the need for countries in similar circumstances to be supportive of each other." According to the Libyan ambassador, cooperation is the only way for resolving the question of foreign debt. "We are aware of the difficult period Brazil is undergoing."

Two officials of the National Oil Corporation of Libya, who are in Brasilia, endorse the position of Ambassador Farage and add that they are optimistic with respect to agreements with Brazil.

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CSO: 3342/248

BRAZIL

PETROBRAS SETS RECORD IN PRODUCTION OF 577,366 BARRELS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Aug 85 p 37

[Text] On 15 August national production of petroleum set a new historical record with the extraction of 577,366 barrels, maintaining the ascending rate, which should reach 600,000 barrels daily in November, insuring a technically advisable ratio between production and reserves.

The information was provided by the production manager of PETROBRAS, Joel Mendes Renno. The new record became possible, even with the halt in production of 14 wells in Bahia, Sergipe, Rio Grande do Norte and Campos Basin due to periodic maintenance work. There are 4,100 wells now producing petroleum on land and sea in Brazil. This year they should provide an annual average of 565,000 barrels daily.

The country's installed petroleum production capacity is 585,000 barrels daily, but that volume cannot yet be achieved because there is always a certain number of wells undergoing maintenance. In November, however, with the recovery of land-based wells in Rio Grande do Norte, Bahia and Sergipe, affected by the last floods, plus the entry into production of six more wells in Campos Basin, production will rise to 600,000 barrels daily.

According to Manager Renno, average production next December could even exceed the mark of 600,000 barrels per day after the wells now under recovery regain the normal rate of work. Campos Basin continues to lead national production with 353,000 barrels extracted last 15 August, followed by Reconcavo Baiano, the oldest oil producing area of the country, with 82,500 barrels. The remaining national production is distributed among the land and sea fields located in Sergipe, Alagoas, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceara and Espirito Santo.

Preservation

The PETROBRAS production manager also reported that every effort to increase national petroleum production rates has been made with the preservation of the main deposits so as to keep them in activity as long as possible. In the fields of Pampo, Enchova and Namorado, the three main fields in Campos Basin, that orientation has been strictly applied so as to prevent the intensification of the rate of production from affecting the useful life of those deposits.

New increases in national production will only take place as of 1988, when the so-called northeast pole of Campos Basin goes into operation. It is made up of the fields of Pargo, Carapeba and Vermelho. Their 120 wells will produce from 90,000 to 95,000 barrels daily, which will require expenditures of \$1.1 billion, particularly with the installation of seven producing platforms. Of these, four have already had their construction contracted to national companies, which cost PETROBRAS 390 billion cruzeiros. Three other units of the same size will be installed in that area; bids for their construction are already being examined by PETROBRAS.

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CSO: 3342/248

BRAZIL

CUT SUPPORTS LAND INVASIONS, 'RADICAL' PLAN, STRIKES

PNRA Considered Unsatisfactory

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Aug 85 p 12

[Text] The Central Organization of Workers (CUT) considers the National Agrarian Reform Plan (PNRA) "unsatisfactory" because it does not respond to the main demands of the workers. The CUT believes that the "real" agrarian reform should be "broad, massive, radical and be under the control of the workers," and that reform will only be possible with the organization and mobilization of the workers themselves. For that reason, the CUT will continue to support the occupation movements, camping, active resistance against expulsion and squatting, forms of struggle which the central considers "legitimate."

The CUT position is stated in an official note drafted after the national plenary meeting of its leaders held on 1-2 August in Sao Paulo and distributed yesterday. These resolutions, which include a list of the workers' demands (including the immediate legalization of all the occupied lands) will be taken to the rank-and-file "to prepare the process of agrarian reform under the control of the workers," as explained by Joao Gomes Novaes, rural secretary of the CUT national executive and farm worker of Barra do Choca, Bahia.

According to Novaes, the CUT plans to broaden the discussion of agrarian reform throughout the country by holding regional and state meetings of workers. In October, the central is going to organize a seminar to formulate its agrarian reform proposal. The CUT also decided to support the movement of the landless in the rally scheduled for the 28th of this month in Brasilia. It is going to support the proposal of that movement, which will hold an agrarian reform discussion week from 1 to 7 September that will culminate in demonstrations (public activities, marches) for agrarian reform on Independence Day.

Defective Plan

The CUT sees "many gaps" in the PNRA detrimental to the workers. According to Novaes, in the first place, the plan does not provide for the immediate legalization of all the lands occupied. "In Brazil, there are 1.3 million

squatters alone who need a reply to their situation immediately," said the CUT leader. In his opinion, suspension of the granting of deeds of ownership (provided in the PNRA) will help expand the large landholdings.

Another shortcoming, according to Novaes, is the time set for application of the government's plan. "The plan speaks of settling 7.1 million workers in 15 years, 1.4 million of them during the Sarney administration; except that during those 4 years, the 7.1 million will have become 14.1 million landless workers," predicted Novaes. For him and the CUT, that reform would have to take place within 3 or 4 years.

The CUT also considers that the agrarian reform is not going to occur if there is no investigation and punishment of the crimes and violence practiced against the farm workers. "This year alone, there were more than 40 murders, the last one this Sunday in Paragominas, in Para, where a union delegate was killed," Novaes pointed out. "The issue of the hired farm land is not dealt with in the PNRA," concluded the union leader. Novaes believes that the PNRA was born out of the government's necessity to provide an answer to the agrarian reform problem but that it will occur only if it is under the control of the workers themselves.

23 October Strike Proposed

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Aug 85 p 26

[Text] On 23 October, all of Brazil on strike against the foreign debt: that is the proposal of the Central Organization of Workers (CUT) for the day of continental action against the debt decided upon at the conference of union representatives and politicians held in Havana, Cuba, which will make the beginning of the coordinated action of the workers of Latin America and the Caribbean for the cancellation, moratorium, immediate suspension of payments or definitive postponement of the foreign debt of the Third World countries and the establishment of a new world economic order. "The day of continental action will be the first step for the solution of the problem of the Third World debt, which will only be resolved in a collective manner, never individually," declared Jair Meneguelli, president of the CUT, who returned from Cuba the day before yesterday.

In Meneguelli's opinion, unity among the debtor countries will avert the danger of reprisals by international capital even if the decision is for the nonpayment of the debt, as the CUT advocates. "The industrialized countries depend on the Third World as much as we depend on them," said that union leader. He also believes that through that unity Latin America and the Caribbean can create commercial defense mechanisms against possible international boycotts. The region can be self-sufficient in oil, for example. In addition, Brazil is the eighth largest economy in the world," he declared. Meneguelli is going to summon the whole union movement and civil and popular organizations next week to discuss the preparation of the continental action day in Brazil against the debt.

BRAZIL

PT SAID EXPERIENCING 'WORST CRISIS IN ITS HISTORY'

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Aug 85 p 2

[Text] "The PT is in crisis." The person making this statement was the secretary general of the Workers Party [PT] himself, Francisco Weffort. In an article published this week in the magazine ISTOE, Weffort recalled the crises undergone by the parties since the presidential succession to date, and he did not spare the PT, saying that it is now undergoing "The worst crisis of its short history, which could affect the very capability for survival of the party."

After admitting that the PT is going through "a crisis of turbulence," Weffort said yesterday that the withdrawal of some legislators is only one of the effects of that crisis, causing "unease which affects large sectors of the masses of supporters of the party." He attributed that problem, not only to the appearance of greater party choices--which allows various options to those dissatisfied with the PT--but also to the lack of definition of the party within a new political framework.

"In 1981 the PT basically concerned itself with a struggle of resistance, attracting many supporters. However, beginning with 1984 the party could no longer define itself as being of resistance. It must have a framework of its own policies because it is not enough to say that it is against the military regime that no longer exists," said Weffort.

He said: "It is not easy for a 'no' party to become a 'yes' party; to become a party with affirmative positions and presenting proposals of government to a country." He believes, however, that the PT is going to "survive the storm."

The party candidate to the prefecture of the capital, Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy, believes that the crisis of the PT is linked to the abandonment of the PT by legislators at a state and federal level and that the crisis must be overcome by those who "believe in the message of the PT and in the honesty of purpose of those who decided to support the cause of those who for a long time were underprivileged." In Brasilia, Deputy Plinio de Arruda Sampaio also admitted the crisis, saying that those of the PT "cannot hide an obvious fact," and acknowledged that its leadership has been "sectarian on many occasions."

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

MILITARY COOPERATION WITH NIGERIA--Brasilia--Nigeria wants to increase military exchange with Brazil and in that connection plans to install an aerospace technical center in the country like the one in Sao Jose dos Campos. It is also studying the purchase of Tucano planes built by the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER) to train its pilots. That information was given by the minister-chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA), Admiral Jose Maria do Amaral, who returned the day before yesterday from a visit to Lagos. The admiral said that the negotiations are already at a very advanced stage and that a Nigerian military mission is scheduled to come to Brazil next month. That official visit will be restricted to Sao Paulo and Rio, where the armed forces' main technical and armaments organizations are located. The EMFA chief added that those negotiations fall within the framework of the existing understanding between the two countries and pertain above all to technical assistance, exchange in the area of education and a trade agreement (Brazil purchases oil and sells manufactured goods) that have really been in existence since 1972. In May, a joint meeting was held and the priority exchange areas defined. However, with Amaral's visit, the primary Nigerian interests regarding military exchange between the two countries were defined. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Aug 85 p 2] 8711

FUNDS FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH--Salvador--The Scientific and Technological Development Support Program (PADCT), one of the priority areas of which is biotechnology, has already guaranteed an appropriation of \$52 million for application in research from 1985 to 1989. Another \$30 million provided for in the program may not be released owing to the expenditure containment phase the country is going through. The problem of the shortage of funds for research came up again during the First National Biotechnology Seminar which ended Friday in the Polytechnical School of the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), in Salvador. However, according to Roberto Meyer of UFBA's Institute of Sciences and Health, the balance sheet of the meeting was very positive because for the first time a large number of representatives of the scientific community and financial agencies such as the National Research Council (CNPq), the Studies and Projects Financing Agency (FINEP) and the Development Bank of the State of Bahia (Desenbanco) came together. According to Meyer, the exchange of experiences and ideas was extremely important for the personnel connected with research in Bahia, who are seeking to develop a serious program in the biotechnology area. According to Meyer, biotechnology is assuming ever greater importance in the health sectors and in

areas such as fine chemistry, food and livestock raising. He called attention to a basic distinction between conventional biotechnology, which is the use of biological means in the productive process, and the new biotechnology. This new biotechnology involves the so-called technology of "brindomas" [as published] or the production of monoclonal antibodies, of immense use in the fields of immunology and the preparation of vaccines (diagnostic and therapeutic); and recombinant DNA technology better known as genetic engineering, the application of which includes, for example, changes in the organization of bacteria for various purposes. [Text] [Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 27-29 Jul 85 p 9] 8711

OIL PRODUCTION RISE--Belo Horizonte--According to a statement made yesterday in this capital by Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves, by the end of this year Brazil will reach a total production of 600,000 barrels of crude oil per day. He pointed out that this will reduce Brazil's import of this product by another 50,000 barrels per day. Imported oil now represents 45 percent of the total consumed in the country. In the first 6 months of this year, oil production in the Campos Basin totaled 58.4 million barrels, or 59.2 percent of all the oil produced in the country, which, during that period, amounted to 98.6 million barrels. The production in Campos represented an increase of 36 percent over that of the same period of the previous year. Bahia was the second largest producing state, with 15.2 million barrels, or 15.4 percent of the total volume. Sergipe accounted for 9.8 percent of the total production for the 6-month period with 9.7 million barrels. Then came the states of Rio Grande do Norte, Ceara, Espirito Santo, Alagoas, Maranhao and Parana (Xisto), accountable for 15.6 percent of the national production. Of the total oil produced by the country, 69 percent (about 68.5 million barrels) came from offshore drillings. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jul 85 p 26] 8568

TUCANO KITS IN EGYPT--On 2 August, President Jose Sarney will participate in the christening of the 100th Tucano plane manufactured by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] at a ceremony to be held in Sao Jose dos Campos. The Tucano in question is intended for use by the Air Show Squadron--the Fumaca Squadron--of the Air Force Academy of Pirassununga. Sarney will also visit the Aeronautics Technology Center (CTA) where he will be made acquainted with the Brazilian Space Program, budgeted at \$700 million, which is scheduled to place four satellites in orbit by the end of the year--two meteorological and two of the remote-sensory type--using more than 90 percent Brazilian technology. Today the Fumaca Squadron is leaving for the United States and Canada where it will give a series of exhibitions until 11 August. Yesterday at the Helwan Airport, 30 km from Cairo, the inaugural flight was held of the first Tucano shipped to Egypt in the form of a kit. The plane was piloted by Gen Mohamed Gamal Farghaly who, in March, completed a production flight course at EMBRAER and will head up a pilot training squadron for the Egyptian Air Force. Egypt is now assembling two Tucanos per month at Cairo's Kader plant, one of the five manufacturing plants of that country which make up the pool of companies doing the final assembly of the Brazilian aircraft shipped from Sao Jose dos Campos in the forms of kits. The average is

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expected to rise to four per month by the end of the year. A total of 15 Brazilian experts are working on the project at Kader. Last year the Tucano took first place in international competition and succeeded in selling Egypt 120 planes for military training, at a cost of \$181 million. Until now, 30 kits have been shipped to Cairo. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Jul 85 p 2] 8568

CUBA IMPORTS DISTILLERY--A sale in the amount of \$3 million marks the beginning of a new trade partnership for Brazil: CODISTIL [Brazilian Distillery Company] has sold Cuba a high-technology alcohol distillery for the production of rum. The deal is about to be completed and, according to Edmir Zanatta, 37 years of age, sales director of CODISTIL--the world's largest manufacturer of distilleries, headquartered in Piracicaba (Sao Paulo State), 171 km from Sao Paulo City--delivery is to be made by the end of the year. The transaction is still faced with legal problems inasmuch as Brazil does not have diplomatic relations with Cuba; if those relations are not re-established by the time the distillery is to be delivered, CODISTIL will have to arrange the export through a third country. "But we believe that everything will be resolved by that time," Zanatta asserts, "since President Sarney himself has said that there are no major difficulties." According to Zanatta, Cuba, the world's second largest producer of sugar (Brazil is number one), provides an excellent market for the manufacturers of Brazilian equipment, since not even its low sugar prices affect its exports to any great extent; this is because Cuba is covered by a trade agreement with the USSR which guarantees remunerative prices. The distillery purchased by the Cubans uses the biodistillation method. Its principal characteristics is the use of continuous fermentation, an integrated process occurring simultaneously with distillation. [Text] [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jul 85 p 8] 8568

CSO: 3342/235

JAMAICA

CARL STONE DISCERNS TURN AWAY FROM LEFT IN PNP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Aug 85 p 8

[Text] POLITICAL phenomenon moreso than economic, cultural or sociological phenomenon tends to be rather fluid and is subject to change. Those who analyse political phenomenon must therefore update their analysis constantly or fall victim to obsolescence.

For example a major metamorphosis has taken place inside the opposition PNP. Yet some of us would like to pretend that these changes have not occurred.

The PNP President Mr. Manley sent a message of concern to Mrs. Nancy Reagan which expressed hope for a speedy recovery from illness by U.S. President Ronald Reagan who in 1980 had defined Manley and the PNP as enemies of freedom and friends of those opposed to democracy and free enterprise in the region.

The PNP top leadership has made many trips to Washington to mend the fences which were damaged between Washington and the PNP in the 1970's

There is now no visible Left presence in the party's top line-up. The main voice of PNP radicalism Dr. D.K. Duncan is openly disenchanted with both Manley the new directions in the PNP. Duncan faces a choice between forming his own party, linking up with Munroe's WPJ or joining the drift from the left to the centre in the mainstream PNP leadership. The electorate has drifted from left to centre and the PNP has followed.

My guess is that Duncan will play for time, wait until Manley leaves the scene and challenge the moderates for selling out the leftist commitment of the PNP in the 1970's. If he has the patience he could well be a force to contend with if the PNP comes back to power and turns out under moderate leadership to be no more capable of addressing people's needs than Mr. Seaga's JLP.

Both Mr. Seaga and the disillusioned Brigadista who wrote the recently published book ("The road not taken") are guilty of failing to understand the changes that have occurred in the PNP, so incidentally have the Cubans.

Looked quite silly

Mr. Seaga was made to look quite silly when he poked fun at Mr. Manley for going to Cuba to hear and echo his master's voice (i.e. Castro) only to discover that Manley's speech on debt problems in Cuba disagreed fundamentally with Castro's position and reflected the line being advocated by the less radical socialist international view. Those who attended the conference assure me that the Cubans were quite disappointed with Manley, especially after a special plane was sent to take him to the conference.

By publicly demonstrating a progressive position on international debt but one which is independent of Castro's line and more related to Jamaican political realities, Mr. Manley has earned some credits and

restored some lost confidence among PNP sympathisers who are wary of the Cuban connection and have bad memories of the 1970's.

The Brigadista book paints a picture of the PNP poised towards taking Jamaica into communism if that party had won in 1980 or organising guerrilla warfare against the JLP from opposition if the party lost.

The PNP lost the election and has been a very passive, controlled, responsible and restrained opposition taking care not to overheat expectations or to give the impression that the PNP has any magical solutions. There has been no sustained and widespread harassment of the government on the scale and with the intensity which the JLP carried out against Manley's government in the 1970's. The PNP has bent over backwards to re-acquire an image of a respectable opposition party and has certainly played a major role in avoiding the political turmoil and anarchy which many have been predicting is the natural consequence of the JLP's austerity policies.

In mid-1984 I bet a colleague of mine that Mr. Seaga's government (which came to power in 1983) would last the full term because the PNP while demanding elections were not prepared to shake Mr. Seaga out of power by widespread protest politics. Without that organised leadership any protests that emerged would (I suggested to my colleague) be not long lasting enough to shake Eddie out of Jamaica House.

Full term likely

The tough and resolute manner in which Seaga survived the general strike and the PNP's decision not to capitalise on it by continuing the mass mobilisation started by the unions (which certainly Corporate Area political dissidents wanted and would have supported) all suggest that Seaga is likely to get his full term in office.

All those persons who have been predicting the demise of the JLP government had better think again.

Both parties in my view are operating on the same election timetable. The PNP don't want power while

Reagan is in the White House because of his personal commitment to Seaga which could be used to sabotage and destabilise a Manley party that forced Seaga out of power. On the other hand by shifting back to the political centre and repairing the links with the U.S. the PNP hopes to ensure that it will remove the communism issue from the agenda of PNP-U.S. relationships and give the U.S. less basis for wanting to keep the PNP out of power.

The more the PNP moves along that track the less is the prospect of any military solution from any quarter blocking Manley's ambitions to form the government of Jamaica when the people have a chance to vote. It diminishes considerably any prospect of undemocratic, unconstitutional outcomes here.

What I can't figure out is why Kingston Publishers who I don't associate with publishing political propaganda should publish Colin Denis' "brigadista book" without insisting on some commentary by the author which updates his vision of the PNP in the '70's and his forecast of what would happen in the 1980's with the reality of today's PNP and its leadership directions. Denis' analysis of the PNP is obsolete and so is Mr. Seaga's as they remain tied to the 1970's.

Differences narrowed

Mr. Manley has learnt some painful lessons from the 1970's that his party has to move in step with the mood of the Jamaican people or risk disaster or political oblivion. Politics is a fluid phenomenon and those whose framework of thought and action remains bogged down in past events and developments will pay dearly for failing to update their analysis.

The fact is that the sharp ideological polarisation which dominated our politics in the 1970's has ceased to exist but both the JLP and the leftists wish to reincarnate it. Major differences in ideology and policy thinking continue to differentiate Manley from Seaga and the JLP from the PNP but the differences have narrowed and there is now a greater prospect and hope for political consensus in the country's future.

Mr. Manley understands that reality as does Mr. Seaga but the latter for propaganda reasons cannot admit it and keeps reincarnating the ghosts of the 1970's as does Mr. Denis's brigadista book.

It is against that background that we have to understand Mr. Manley's trip to Washington to talk with Secretary of State Schultz and the distancing of leftist elements from the PNP. These developments will effectively bury the communist bogey as applied to Manley and the PNP.

The JLP and the Left have everything to lose from these PNP leadership moves between now and the next election. The longer term implications are entirely another matter.

CSO: 3298/996

JAMAICA

CHURCH'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS SEAGA GOVERNMENT EXAMINED

Desecration of Church Property

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Aug 85 p 10

[Article by Hopeton Dunn]

[Text]

ON Friday July 4, officers and staff members of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) and Jamaica Council of Churches (JCC) in Kingston turned up at work to find three truck loads of rotting garbage deposited in the entrance and on the front steps of their office.

The church officials were outraged, as was the wider community, but the development was by no means perplexing to even casual observers of recent public affairs in Jamaica.

Only days before, the JCC had made a public bid to mediate in the week-long historic general strike. While obtaining the co-operation of the trade union officials, the JCC effort was all but rebuffed by the government. The JCC General Secretary, the Reverend Edmund Davis in a comment on the situation carried on national radio complained that he was "left with the impression that the Prime Minister's attitude is the greatest obstacle in resolving this issue, and I should dare add, in the development of this nation".

These comments — found by UWI social scientist, Professor Carl Stone to be views widely held by Jamaicans — were to enrage officials of the Prime Minister's Office and activist members of his West Kingston Constituency. In a statement, government Senator Olivia Grange rejected the controversial allegation and so did Mr Seaga's supporters in his West Kingston enclave.

In a news conference called by the two church organisations against the backdrop and stench of the piled-up garbage, the Regional Co-ordinator of the CCC, Mrs Claire Madix and the Reverend Davis said such actions would not succeed in intimidating the Church from carrying out its mission of fearless defence of the poor and oppressed.

The disposal of garbage at the churches' South Avenue headquarters was doubtless the sequel to the attempt by the Church to hold the scales in the struggle between the working people and the government over government policies

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which are having a devastating effect upon the working class, the middle class and the unemployed.

"We are now suffering the wrath of 'god'," remarked a Jamaican trade union leader, tongue in cheek, as he and his colleagues wrestled with the wave of suspensions, dismissals and other measures meted out by Prime Minister Seaga, following the seven-day national strike in June.

It is an ironic truth that The country's biggest employer, the government, is now engaged in the biggest post-strike victimisation exercise in modern Jamaican history with its own labour ministry negotiating a 'settlement' of the suspension issue. The trade union and 1 200 firemen, 200 Jamaica Public Service Company workers and scores of

Water Commission and Telephone Company workers are not optimistic that there is any justice in this type of "negotiating process" for them. Yet they have been patiently going through the ropes.

With no settlement in sight, the public sector utility workers have once again issued, through their unions, another ultimatum to government demanding discussions to end this spate of post-strike victimisation.

Less militant are the thousands of teachers and civil servants who have been made redundant, with the closure of some schools, including the Moneague Teachers' College, and the reduction of many government departments and parish councils to less than skeleton staffing.

Mr. Seaga is playing a tough game with broad public opinion increasingly consolidating against him.

He has stated openly that he will not run the country on the basis of public opinion. This attitude and his actions in relation to local and national elections are giving rise to public speculation that the government is planning a military solution.

This viewpoint has been given support by the continued use by the government of soldiers to man the fire service while regular firemen are locked out or on suspension, and the announcement by the Utilities Minister Parnell Charles that a new power barge bought by the Jamaica Public Service Company will be exclusively manned by Jamaica Defence Force soldiers.

Against this background, the January gas price demonstrations and the June general strike appear to be but episodes in a mounting struggle between the rulers and the ruled.

Effect of Seaga's Policy

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Aug 85 pp 6, 13

[Article by Wenty Bowen and Derick Boyd]

[Text]

CHALK up one more alienated group to the long list of sectors unhappy over conditions prevailing in Jamaica. The Jamaica Council of Churches thought it would intervene in the general strike last month and offered itself as a go-between between the unions and the government, following the unions rejection of the back-to-work order of the Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister's consequent withdrawal of his offer to meet with them.

The invitation to act as intermediaries had come from the trade union

leaders, and the executive of the JCC as well as representatives of the Jamaica Association of Evangelicals, the Jamaica Pentecostal Union, the Full Gospel Ministerial Fellowship and the Church of God met with the leaders of the six striking unions and proposed a formula to get the two sides talking.

The churchmen proposed the suspension of the strike for five days. Meanwhile a Church delegation would meet with the Prime Minister to discuss with him a formula for ending the strike, after which they would arrange a joint

meeting between the government and the trade union leaders to resolve the issue.

The JCC secretary, the Reverend Edmund Davis, was instructed to arrange the meeting with Mr. Seaga. He phoned Jamaica House several times and explained the purpose of his call. The Prime Minister, he was told, was in a meeting, but would call him back. Mr. Davis sat and waited for his phone to ring and for the voice on the other end to announce the Prime Minister of Jamaica. But the expected call never came, even though he got through to the Prime Minister's private residence the following morning and was again told that he would be called.

Instead, the Prime Minister met with a newly formed church group, the National Consultative Committee of Churches, after getting a letter from them informing him of the establishment of the group, and requesting "open dialogue" on the strike situation.

Later, when the Rev. Davis went on the popular mid-day call-in radio programme "the Public Eye" and expressed "his personal opinion" not the JCC's that Mr. Seaga's attitude was a factor contributing to the prolongation of the strike, there were calls from him to apologise to the Prime Minister and/or to be publicly rebuked by the President of the JCC. And when neither apology nor rebuke came, some unknown partisans took matters into their own hands and in the dead of night, spread three truck loads of garbage outside the JCC offices.

NOT FIRST TIME

It was not the first time the Prime Minister had failed to respond to letters or phone calls from JCC personnel, and he is on record as advocating the formation of a new "national" grouping of Jamaican churches. Critics of the JCC, mainly from among the evangelical and pentecostal churchmen who are not represented in the JCC regard it as an unrepresentative body of Jamaican churchmen, while others regard it as the PNP at prayer.

The JLP in particular recalls the JCC's strident opposition to the national lottery started by a JLP government in the '60s and abolished by the PNP government in the '70s. More recently the JCC has threatened a public campaign against the introduction of casino gambling, which is expected to be introduced shortly. And back in May the JCC adopted a resolution calling on the government to hold general elections now, which is of course an echo of the PNP's call.

Some leading churchmen of the JCC are also seen by more conservative elements in Jamaican society as flirting with Liberation Theology and *ipso facto* with socialism and Marxism. The fundamentalist evangelical churches, on the other hand, are mainly of American origin, are strongly anti-communist and are generally regarded as being pro JLP, many of them having revealed, shortly after the 1980 election that swept Mr. Seaga to power, that they had been engaged in virtual daily prayer and fasting for a JLP victory, which they

saw as the answer to their prayers. They had, they felt, saved Jamaica from communism.

In short, the Christian community in Jamaica reflects the dominant political schisms of the society at large. But since the Church is somehow expected to transcend these divisions and to be able to bring the various factions together, one expects at least a facade of unity to be maintained; for, mediating efforts have been invoked in the past, just as they have been invoked over the recent national strike, and can potentially, help to defuse a crisis situation.

The present episode, however, has not had that outcome. Though JLP spokespersons claim that Rev. Davis's calls were returned but he had already left his office, and though they further claim not to have received his letter requesting an audience with the Prime Minister, Rev. Davis's own account leaves one with the distinct impression that he got the cold shoulder from the Prime Minister, something which other JCC officials have apparently also felt from time to time.

In a statement condemning the dumping of garbage outside the JCC's headquarters, the PNP accused the government of deliberately attempting to divide the churches.

Deploring the verbal attacks on members of the JCC "for attempting to play a national role in helping to resolve the present national crisis", the party said that in a country in which the Ecumenical Movement had gone further than in most countries, it

was "a shame that anyone should take it upon himself to destroy the unity of action of the churches which has been developing in our country".

COMMUNICATION THE KEY

And the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kingston, the Most Rev. Samuel Carter, commenting on the mass redundancies and lay-offs that have occurred in the wake of the general strike, has said that if the nation was to profit from recent events, then communication was the key. He urged the government, the unions and the workers to come together to discuss their problems and difficulties and work out solutions. For what had emerg-

ed since the strike was "greater, not less, polarisation. Nothing had been settled", he said.

Indeed he is correct. While the national strike has been followed by thousands of government workers losing their jobs, and the Prime Minister has gone on a visit to Japan and then to France for a meeting of the Paris Club to talk about the refinancing of Jamaica's debts, the unions that called the strike, except for the BITU, have issued an ultimatum calling on the Prime Minister to meet them within seven days to discuss the redundancies and sundry other matters including their wage claim, "or leave".

Or else what? That remains to be seen. Every set of redundancies leaves the unions hundreds, sometimes thousands, of men weaker, and men without jobs lack a rationale for striking. Also, union delegates themselves have stated: "We have left the meeting with no set agenda and no plan as to what further action will be taken".

While he has invoked the name of Bustamante to support the way he has dealt with the strikers, it seems clear that Mr. Seaga is poised, if he so desires, to deal crippling blows to the Jamaican union movement, the antithesis of what Bustamante stood for.

Interview With Church Leader

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 28 Jul 85 p 11A

[Article by Carl Wint]

[Text]

The non-traditional churches are perceived by many Jamaicans to be the most dynamic, and fast growing religious grouping in the country.

Pilloried by some churchmen as being the handmaidens of imperialists, and by others as political puppets, they still continue to attract a growing number of Jamaicans. Their meetings, conventions, and healings speak to something in the Jamaican psyche.

No one knows how many churches, denominations or church members are in the island. Figures are hard to come by.

Recently, a new religion appeared on the scene at the National Consultative Committee of Churches. Its chairman is the Rev. Ronald Blair. This reporter spoke to him last week:

Misconception

Question: What is the NCCC, and where is it coming from?

Rev. Blair: There is quite a lot of misconceptions out there regarding the formation of the National Consultative Committee of Churches concerning the meeting with the Prime Minister.

"First of all the new committee is a committee that the idea came out of a meeting with the Prime Minister in 1983. At that time I was newly elected chairman of the Ministerial Full Gospel Fellowship, now the Jamaica National Association of Full Gospel Churches.

"I wrote the Prime Minister requesting an audience with him over some issue at the time. He replied to say he had a similar letter from the JCC (Jamaica Council of Churches), and another group — all these are umbrella groups, for instance like the Full Gospel has 22 denominations, so you see each of these represent a number of churches. Because the Prime Minister had letters from two or three of us he said instead of meeting everyone separately we should all come in and have one meeting, and send our agenda with whatever we would like to discuss.

The groups

"So we thought that since this came up we would find out from him if he would recognise a Committee formed by all these groups so that when we need to meet him instead of meeting in separate groups we could meet in this committee.

"All the groups were represented — the JCC, JEA, Full Gospel, JPU (Jamaica Pentecostal Union) and SDA (Seventh Day Adventists). We discussed the issues we brought forth and discovered that we were thinking more or less along the same lines.

"We presented the idea of a joint committee and the Prime Minister was elated. He said he would be most happy to have such a committee that he could meet with from time to time. Every churchman in that audience including Archbishop Carter and Bishop DeSouza agreed to pursue such a course.

Launching

"Rev. Evans Bailey was then chairman of the JCC and we requested him to be the convenor and he chaired that, from I think it was September 1983 upon till March this year, when the Committee was eventually formed. So it wasn't a hurriedly formed thing. We had deliberation, we had suggestions about the aim and function of the Committee, and that took us roughly a year and a half.

"In March of this year the Committee was eventually launched. I was elected chairman and we had the leadership spread among the four groups which eventually decided to join. The JCC decided they would no longer be interested in joining. So, right away you see it was not something which was created as a rival as it was the intention to have all of us together in a united church group that could speak for the total church on matters of common interest.

Membership in JCC

Question: Before you go on. The JCC, I think, is the oldest of all these umbrella group...

Rev. Blair: Right.

Question: Had there been any difficulty in the other churches getting membership in the JCC?

Rev. Blair: Not all of us were interested in membership because for one, although the Church wants to be united we have differences in doctrinal matters and functions, and it's better if we are grouped according to how we operate. You find the JAE are together and deal with our own doctrinal

matters; then when we want to come together the heads of all these groups just meet together to discuss issues we can deal with on a common basis.

Question: Alright, there is the JCC which tend to have the historic churches, you have the JEA, JPU...what's that?

Rev. Blair: Jamaica Pentecostal Union, a group of Pentecostal Churches. Well they can be misunderstood, most times they are referred to as Jesus only, but they have things in common. They are together, and they understand each other. The Full Gospel is another which is Pentecostal in our worship, but some of our functions are different from the JPU, and we are together. So you have all these denominations.

Any overlap?

Question: Is there any overlap?

Rev. Blair: A slight overlap between JEA and Full Gospel where about four denominations are members of both.

Question: How many denominations are there?

Rev. Blair: I haven't had a look at that. I think it would be of interest. Of course we need to note that not all denominations are members of these groups. There are still denominations which haven't joined including the Church of God of Prophecy, one of the largest Pentecostal groups. They work closely with the Full Gospel churches, but they are not members.

Strength of membership

Question: How do these groups compare in terms of strength of denominations or membership.

Rev. Blair: Well it's hard to tell. We do not know the membership of individual churches. We do know that you have large churches like the Baptists, an historically large church. I may not know the strength of the Anglicans but we do know they are a strong church.

"In our groups like this particular church, the New Testament Church of God, we have just under 300 branches with registered members being over 37,000. And if we are to check our adherents like people who would come to us for funerals, then you go into several other thousands. Now that's just one denomination and there are a few others which are fairly large. So we are talking about several hundred thousand in the newly formed church group.

Manipulation by politicians

Question: The charge has been made that your sort of churches are being manipulated by politicians. How do you reply?

Rev. Blair: I think the charge is made that the JCC is manipulated by chiefly left-leaning people. The charge is made that we are manipulated by the present Government. If the last meeting is to be interpreted as such, I think it is quite a wrong concept.

"We have individual churchmen who have the right to decide what they want to do. We have churchmen who have gone for parties and have been elected. That is their right. But as far as the denominations are concerned, and

as far as our groups are concerned we have never discussed politics, no party politics.

"We believe that our members should vote. You may find one or two small denominations who don't believe in voting at all. But we encourage them to share in the democratic practice of the country, so that most of the churches will have members in their local congregations belonging to one of the various parties. It would be foolish for Church leaders to try and speak out for one group?

A split in the Church?

Question: In terms of the Committee coming to fruition now, meeting with the Prime Minister, the breaking away of the JCC, can this be seen as a split in the Church?

Rev. Blair: I would say it's more united now. Prior to this you had the JCC, you had the Full Gospel, you had the JAE, the JPU and Seventh Day Adventists — that's five, and we all went our separate ways if we wanted. With the leaders we agreed on our approach. Now we have out of the five, four coming together, and it is not coming together against the other one. It was decided to have the other one in it, but they have exercised their right in saying they don't want to be a part. So we are more together.

On national issues

Question: Do you think that in looking down the road you might be able to work with them in terms of national issues?

Rev. Blair: Let me answer by introducing the second thing I said there is a misconception about; that is our meeting with the Prime Minister recently.

"The NCC had its first quarterly meeting on the Wednesday of the strike (June 26). Out of that we had a resolution to meet with the Prime Minister, at least to try and convene a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Unions.

"Right away we got our letters done, sent them off that same evening to Jamaica House and Union Headquarters. We had a ready response from Jamaica House that the Prime Minister was extremely busy that week as he would be off the island the following week but that he would be trying to see if he could work in the time to meet with us some time during the week. We had requested a meeting that night.

"The following day we didn't hear from the unions and so I called them. Mr. Taylor, when he came in, told me he got our letter, he was interested; however, he had word from the JCC that they would like to meet with them; so since we did not yet have a reply from Jamaica House and did not know if we would be able to have a meeting with the Prime Minister, if I would meet with them along with the JCC.

Our decision

"We had about two hours to make our decisions. I got on the phone to my men, suggested to them that we join in with the JCC and meet the unions. Not one person refused to do so, so you see it is not that we have anything against the JCC. We had a joint meeting that Thursday.

"At that meeting we decided to call Jamaica House and get a date from the Prime Minister when he could meet with us. Recall that the new Committee had already sent a letter the previous day. Now, the phone call didn't work out. Rev. Davis made the call. He said the reply he got was that the Prime Minister was in a meeting and he could not talk to him at that time.

"The union leaders left for their meeting. We decided to see if we could get word from the Prime Minister before their (the unions) meeting was over so that they could make an announcement.

O.K. the Church was to secure a date with the Prime Minister. Rev. Davis was to do that, and he didn't succeed that evening. I left there minutes to five and continued to be in touch with Jamaica House. We had word on Thursday morning that the Prime Minister would meet with us on that day. We had so informed Rev. Coke of the JCC and Rev. Davis, and said if we got the call from Jamaica House in response to our letter we would call them.

Davis out

"At about 6.30 p.m. I got the call that we could have a meeting 9.30 that night. I called our men and told them. They said yes they would be ready. But before I could get in touch with Rev. Davis we heard the announcement on the 7.00 o'clock news that the unions decided to continue the strike and that the people had shouted down the proposal from the Church. We thought: why bother to go to Jamaica House at 9.30 if the strike was continuing, so we called off that meeting.

"The following day, however, Jamaica House called back to say if we were still interested the Prime Minister could make a time available Friday evening. That was in response to our letter. Until that time the JCC hadn't written. They had tried to contact the Prime Minister, didn't succeed, messages were left. The only reason we didn't get in touch with the JCC was because we felt the statement by Rev. Davis about the Prime Minister might jeopardise some of the successes we had hoped to achieve if we had taken him along.

Finally, the newly formed Committee is bent on helping as much as possible, not only in Church circles. We definitely have no desire to take sides in party politics; but there are issues on which we will speak and it may appear that we are taking sides. Eventually when other issues arise, and we speak and we will seem to be speaking against, people will begin to realise that it is not a matter of taking sides, but as a voice for God we are speaking out to principles which we think are right ourselves.

CSO: 3298/955

JAMAICA

SEAGA REPORTS TO PARLIAMENT ON DEBT RELIEF MEASURES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1, 2 Aug 85

[1 Aug 85 pp 1, 3, 19]

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga told Parliament yesterday that the rescheduling of US\$193-million of debt so as to defer payment this year for several years offers a breathing space to enable the productive sector to improve earnings "so that when this debt becomes due, some by 1988 and some by 1990 and seven to nine years thereafter we will be better able to discharge our obligations."

Mr. Seaga gave details of the agreements reached with external commercial banks and the Paris Club during his recent visit to Europe.

He said this successful approach to debt management was in contrast to the objectives of the conference now in progress in Havana seeking agreement that debtor countries should unilaterally cancel their international debt. He said it was embarrassing to note that political leaders [of the PNP] were attending that conference "joining hand in hand with Fidel Castro who has just completed re-negotiation of his country's debt while calling on nations now to cancel theirs."

Unilateral cancellation of debts would be disastrous for Jamaica, the Prime Minister said.

Following is the text of his statement:

"Of growing importance in the financial calendar is the necessity to renegotiate some of the country's outstanding debt to relieve the pressure on the budget for immediate repayment.

The need arises from the considerable decline over the past four years in foreign exchange earnings from which this debt must be paid. Over this period our foreign exchange earnings have fallen very substantially.

The reason for this reduction in earnings, as we all know, is that revenue from the bauxite industry over that period has fallen drastically, in fact the difference in bauxite revenue in 1980/81 as compared with this year is projected to be US\$459 million. This fall in revenue is entirely due to the dramatic reduction in the demand for bauxite and alumina ever since the onset of the world recession in 1982.

In terms of our annual budget, therefore, in this financial year, our foreign exchange earnings would have been at least US\$459 million greater if there had not been a serious decline in demand for bauxite and alumina in the market place as a result of the world recession.

In the circumstances of such a dramatic loss of resources, only 3 courses can be taken: either (1) We

borrow more to close the gap; or (2) we cut our expenditure dramatically; or (3) we postpone payment of debt due as a means of relieving some of the pressure.

Let us examine these three options. We dare not any longer borrow more than we can afford. Our borrowings are now tailored to affordable levels and at all costs we must not exceed these limits. To exceed them would be to continue the unwise financial policies of the 1970's which have led to the build-up of pressure on the economy today. We must, therefore, look to the second and the third options for the means of addressing this problem. This we have done. The expenditure budget for imports this year has been reduced by US\$138 million from the total provided last year. In fact, the level of imports projected this year is well below that of 1980/81, five years ago. Indeed, given the fact that the restrictions on import licensing have been removed, the import budget for this year represents the lowest level possible which the economy can tolerate without the development of serious shortages.

The gap that remains after reducing the import budget is further addressed by the third option, postponing the payment of debt due this year. This amount has to be broken out into two parts:

(1) Payments due to multi-lateral institutions, such as the World

Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the I.F.F., totalling US\$285 million;

(2) Payments to Commercial Banks and to the official institutions in various countries with which we have contracted debts, such as, US/AID, CIDA of Canada, and the Oil Supply Agencies of Venezuela and Mexico. These total US\$441 million.

Debt contracted in the first group cannot be postponed or abandoned. In fact, any serious arrears or non-payment of loans to the World Bank, I.M.F. or other agency of this group can lead to the gravest consequences including calling of existing loans; cancellation of loans under negotiation; and suspension of future loans.

Debt due Commercial Banks and the official lending institutions of donor countries, that is, the second group, can be re-negotiated, however, if a good case can be made.

The re-negotiation takes place in three parts: (1) The Commercial Banks; (2) The Industrial Countries/Donor Country Group, which together are known as the Paris Club; (3) The Non-Paris Club Countries.

I am pleased to advise the House that re-negotiations have now been completed with the Steering Committee of the External Commercial Banks and with the Paris Club Countries to refinance and reschedule the Jamaica Public Sector Direct and guaranteed debt due in this financial year.

I outline below the results of negotiations concluded two weeks ago to re-finance and re-schedule our debt due for this year with Commercial Banks and Paris Club countries.

With respect to the Commercial Banks, the Steering Committee of the Banks have agreed to recommend to Creditor Banks that 100% of principal payments on debt maturing in this financial year 1985/86 as well as the next financial year 1986/87 be re-financed over 10 years including a grace period of three years. The interest rate is a favourable 1-7/8% above the London Inter-Bank offered rate or libor. While this rate would change as the libor moved up and down, at present it would be 10-1/8%.

In addition, another very favourable concession was agreed with the Steering Committee of the banks, that is, to roll all debt due to the banks over the three financial years 1987/88 to 1989/90 into one consolidated debt re-payable in ten equal quarterly instalments, with a weighted average interest rate. This sets the stage for negotiating the re-scheduling of that debt in a single negotiation in 1987/88.

In all, the negotiation with the Steering Committee of the commercial banks has resulted in agreement to re-schedule US\$196 million of debt due over the next two financial years, of which US\$96.5 million falls due this year and US\$99.5 million next year. In addition, by consolidating the debt due for the next three financial years, thereafter, we have set the stage of complete re-negotiation of all three years in one session. The end result would be a successful re-scheduling of the next five years of public sector direct and guaranteed debt to external commercial banks in two sessions.

Since the Steering Committee of the Banks represent those banks with by far the largest segment of credit, it can be assumed that their recommendations to creditor banks will be accepted.

These can be considered most favourable terms.

In respect of the Paris Club countries, the agreement reached was for 100% of principal payments and 50% of interest falling due in this financial year to be re-scheduled over twelve equal semi-annual instalments commencing March 31, 1990 and ending September 30, 1995, that is a 10½ year period from the beginning of this financial year.

The amount relieved of payment this year by Paris Club countries is US\$70.4 million.

This leaves the non-Paris Club group, largely consisting of oil debt to Venezuela and Mexico, to be re-negotiated. Because there is no single grouping such as the Paris Club in which this can be done, these negotiations will have to be undertaken one at a time, a programme on which the Governor of the Bank of Jamaica will shortly embark.

It should be noted that one of the terms of the Paris Club agreement is that negotiations with non-Paris Club countries should not result in those countries receiving more favourable terms of repayment. It is expected, therefore, that Jamaica will receive in these negotiations terms similar to those granted by the Paris Club.

The amount involved for this financial year with non-Paris Club countries is US\$26.5 million.

Accordingly, the total debt to be relieved from payment this year and re-scheduled over the next 10½ years, with grace periods ranging from 3-5 years, in respect of external commercial banks, Paris Club and non-Paris Club countries, is US\$193.4 million.

I want to emphasise four points in connection with the policy of re-financing and re-scheduling of debt.

(1) This policy is being pursued as a necessity because of the severe fall in revenues from the bauxite industry. In this year alone the reduction in foreign exchange earnings will be US\$110.4 million as compared to the level of earnings from this sector last year. Indeed, this year the foreign exchange earnings of the industry will be US\$459 million less than it was in 1980/81 some five years ago.

If there had been no world recession and the 1980/81 level of revenues of the industry, as a consequence, remained the same over the period, we would not have had to re-schedule debt, and in fact our targets in reducing the budget deficit, restoring our foreign exchange reserves, creating employment and meeting our debt payments would have been comfortably met.

The cessation of operations by Alcoa and Reynolds, the possible cessation of operations by a third company, which we are still endeavouring to rescue, and the dramatic fall in the price of and demand for alumina and bauxite worldwide are realities which we cannot escape.

Accordingly, prudent and wise government must take steps to adjust to these realities and we have done so by structurally adjusting the economy to earn more from other sectors — tourism, agriculture and manufacturing. However, the investment process naturally takes time to build up results by its very nature.

Hence, while the decline in the level of bauxite industry revenues expected this year as compared to five years ago is US\$459 million less, the improvement in foreign exchange earnings from tourism in addition to the other foreign exchange earning sectors over the same period is only US\$272 million.

In other words, bauxite revenues are US\$459 million less today than five years ago, but the combined improvement from tourism and all other foreign exchange earning sectors is only US\$272 million over the same period.

The policy of re-scheduling debt is therefore to give these other sectors, which are being promoted by investment expansion, time to grow and to produce greater earnings to enable re-payment of the postponed debt at that time.

In the meantime we must ensure that we do not overload the future with additional debt beyond what we can afford to service and for that reason this Government had curtailed its borrowings to levels which are affordable so as to ensure that, in the future, our ability to service debt will be enhanced.

(2) This brings me to the second point — Jamaica's debt is well structured in that, unlike most other debtor countries, our debt is primarily to multi-lateral banks, such as the World Bank, Inter American Development Bank, International Monetary Fund and so on, as well as well to the official lending institutions of friendly countries. These debts, therefore, are on highly concessional terms — low rates of interest and long periods of repayment, generally 15 - 30 years, and in many instances a period of several years of grace before repayment commences. More than 80% of Jamaica's debt is in this category. In other debtor countries with severe debt problems, the level of debt of this type is generally less than 20%, and the great majority of the debt of these countries is to commercial banks carrying high rates of interest and short periods of repayment.

Jamaica's indebtedness of this type to commercial banks is only US\$39 million of a total of US\$316 million external debt.

(3) I want to emphasise that the postponement of re-payment of debt means just what it says: That it will have to be re-paid at some time. Only increased production will enable us to earn the revenues required to service these debts when they come due. I cannot over-emphasise this point.

(4) The fact that re-negotiation of debt has resulted in the postponement of repayment due during this year amounting to US\$193.4 million, does not mean that there is room for spending US\$193 million more. This saving was already taken into account in the preparation of the budget, and as a result, there is no additional amount now available to be programmed for expenditure. The use of this savings has already been programmed.

(5) I must point out emphatically that the very favourable terms which we have successfully secured in these re-negotiations are a result of our successful and heroic effort last year to adjust the economy to reduce the budget deficit by more than half and to turn around the very large deficit of the year before in the balance of payments to an equally large surplus last year.

In other words, what has been demonstrated by the result of these re-negotiations is that those countries which made the extra effort to assist themselves in solving their own problems will be given the extra assistance to reach solutions.

Our responsible approach to debt management which retains all the goodwill necessary for us to continue to successfully seek new loans, new investment, and to expand production, is to be contrasted with the objectives of the conference now in progress in Havana seeking agreement that debtor countries should unilaterally cancel their international debt. No one could prevent a country from unilaterally taking such a decision. But against the benefit of relief from debt payments, what are the consequences?

To a country like Jamaica the consequences would be awesome.

Consider well these consequences: cancellation of loans under negotiation; suspension of future borrowings; a general drying-up of finances to provide oil, fertilisers, drugs or basic foods; widespread shortages; lack of funds to carry out essential developments such as road improvements and repairs, provision of water supplies, restoration of school buildings, etc; loans to farmers and manufacturers would dry up; hospitals and schools would close on a wide scale; the government's programme of welfare to aid the poor would have to cease; many, many thousands of employees would have to be laid off in order to make ends meet; and eventually creditors would seize our ships and aircraft in foreign ports to satisfy debts. Then the tourist trade would dry up, new investment would cease, and unemployment, hunger, darkness and crime would stalk the land.

It is embarrassing to us to note that those who consider themselves to be an alternative government are not here in Jamaica rejoicing with us that the prudent policies of the Government and the hard work and heroic efforts of the people of Jamaica have paid off in the successful re-negotiation of debt just completed. They are, I am told, today in Havana, joining hand in hand with Fidel Castro who has just completed re-negotiation of his country's debt while calling on nations now to cancel theirs.

What are we to expect from those political leaders from Jamaica who attend this conference —reckless policies of debt cancellation which would lead to the tragic consequences I have just outlined: shortages, unemployment, darkness, hunger, crime?

We feel embarrassed for them but we ought not to be surprised that the leopard does not change its spots, or is it a case of heeding the master's voice?

The successful re-negotiation of debt has completed the programme of financing the external budget for this year, this programme called for —

(A) Conclusion of a new agreement with the IMF. On July 17 the board of the IMF approved a new 22-month agreement with the Government of Jamaica for US\$115 million of which US\$41.6 million will be disbursed in this year.

(B) Completion of discussions with the donor country group which I addressed in Washington last month. This has yielded US\$296 million in concessional loans for this year.

(C) Rescheduling of debt in this financial year with relief totalling US\$193.4 million.

In all, the package totals US\$531 million and completes the required external financing targeted for the budget.

As large as this may seem, it is to be remembered that it allows only for limited imports of US\$1097 million, US\$103 million less than in 1980/81. In other words, along with the bounty of successful loan negotiations and re-scheduling, must go hand-in-hand the austerity of a US\$138 million cut-back in imports over last year. We must exercise discipline and restraint in the use of our scarce resources if we are to successfully weather the next 2 or 3 years of the adjustment process to ensure the recovery of the Jamaican economy.

[2 Aug 85 p 25]

[Excerpt]

"I well recognise that these large sums also encourage queries as to the use of the funds over the years. In fact, there have been pointed questions asked on where has the money gone, which have led me to cause some research to be carried out over the period 1972-1980, and 1981-1984, to com-

pare the use of loan funds raised over the period.

The result of these investigations makes an interesting comparison in the use of funds to finance the budget deficit and amortization payments on debt, on the one hand, and expenditure on capital pro-

jects, on the other, to improve roads, water supplies, build schools, provide loans to farmers and all the other capital development projects which a government carries out.

The comparison points out sharply that a greater proportion of loan-resources had to be

used in 1981-1984 to finance the budget deficit and make principal payments on debt, than in the 1972-1980 period. The percentage difference was an average of 4.6% per annum in money terms, \$345 million each year, or \$1,380 million over the 4 years.

And spending \$345 million more each year to finance the deficit and make debt payments, naturally reduces the proportion of loan resources available to carry out capital programmes by the same 4.6% per annum.

The answer to such queries as to where has the money gone, is that an increased proportion of the funds available have had to be used since 1981 to deal with the problems of a deficit which was blown up out of control in the 1970's and to make principal payments on debt due largely from borrowings of that period.

If there are complaints now that not

enough funds are available to spend on roads, water supplies, hospitals, schools, and so on, it is because a greater proportion of our funds are being used to deal with debt and deficit problems. Some people don't like to be reminded of these facts, but that will not deter me from pointing out the root cause of the problems we must now struggle with: if the period of the 1970's had continued at the relative deficit free, debt free levels of the 1960's, we would not today be spending a disproportionate amount of our resources to deal with debt and deficit problems and in so doing leave smaller and smaller proportions of our resources to deal with the capital improvements to provide infrastructure services and assets which are urgently required for improvement of conditions in the country. In summary, the re-scheduling of \$193 million of debt so as to defer payment this year for several

years offers a breathing space to enable the productive sector to improve earnings so that when this debt becomes due, some by 1988 and some by 1990 and 7 to 9 years thereafter, we will be better able to discharge our obligations.

The alternative to the re-scheduling would have been to cut imports by some US\$200 million or 20% to a level well below our ability to import raw materials, medicine, basic foods and oil in sufficient quantities.

Outages, shortages and stoppages would have been the order of the day. Unemployment, hunger and crime would become rampant in the resulting rationing of food, gas, raw materials, fertilisers, feed and medical supplies.

The re-scheduling of debt this year has enabled us to continue to maintain a reasonable standard of living while we put our skills, talents and other abilities to work to improve pro-

duction, increase earnings and restore prosperity. Let us use this opportunity well. Let it not be said that some of us laboured hard to give the rest a second chance but laboured in vain because of the inability to take that chance and build upon it new assets of prosperity.

If we fail to use these opportunities which are being created to earn a second chance, it will not be long before those who have in so many ways helped to create these opportunities, despair of the lack of positives and the abundance of negatives generated by those with a talent to seek problems wherever there are solutions.

Let it not be said that we grasped defeat from the jaws of victory!

Let us use our talents well mixed with new opportunities to create a blend of buoyancy of spirit, commitment to work and determination to succeed for ourselves and our children."

JAMAICA

MANLEY OFFERS ALTERNATIVE TO CASTRO'S DEBT-CANCELING PLAN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

HAVANA, Aug. 1, (CANA)

Former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley says he does not fully agree with Cuban President Fidel Castro's proposals for cancelling the region's huge foreign debt.

Manley has suggested instead that countries should unite in refusing to pay any more than a fixed share of their export earnings to service the debt.

But he denounced renegotiations with creditors as "elaborate exercises in hypocrisy as they all know the money cannot be repaid."

The leader of Jamaica's socialist opposition who is in Havana attending a debt conference said yesterday "debtor power" was needed against the demands of creditor nations. A united front was vital "to clear away this single greatest block to our development," he added.

A number of businessmen and moderate politicians told the conference, which attracted mainly left-leaning delegates, that the debt would eventually have to be paid but that there should be a moratorium at least.

Overall, calls for Latin American and Caribbean unity and a halt to repayments on the region's huge foreign debt dominated the first full day of the conference described as a

'continental dialogue' by its Cuban hosts.

More than 1,000 delegates from throughout the region have gathered in Havana for the scheduled four-day conference which is part of President Castro's campaign to persuade the region's leaders that its 360 billion dollar debt should be wiped out.

Few leaders accepted Castro's invitations to attend but a number of prominent politicians are among the delegates, including five former heads of government and a handful of ministers.

"It's not that we don't want to pay the debt. We are simply unable to do so," Bolivian Planning Minister Freddy Justiniano said of his country.

The most applause went to a speech backing Castro's view that a "debtors' strike" should be the first step to free Latin America from the economic mire of unemployment, soaring inflation and social conflict aggravated by tough austerity measures.

"The debt is unpayable ... and all Latin American patriotic forces should be grateful to commander Fidel Castro for calling this conference," said Costa Rican economist Eduardo Mora.

No final statement will be issued though Castro is expected to make the address at the end of the gathering, due on Saturday night.

CSO: 3298/954

JAMAICA

PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION OF BAUXITE INDUSTRY OUTLINED

PNP Offer of Assistance

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

In a statement on Thursday, the People's National Party said it was "still willing to offer its help and advice to the Government, and discuss strategies for market diversification and expansion of the current markets to save the bauxite/alumina industry from further collapse."

The party's spokesman on Mining, Horace Clarke, said the basic problem was that enough analysis was not being done to anticipate problems, and hence no alternatives were being devised to develop strategies to preserve the industry.

In the wake of the announcement of the "temporary" closure of Alpart, Mr. Clarke said it was alarming that after five years the Government had not yet formulated and presented a bauxite/alumina policy. The policy

which projected a fifty percent growth in the industry by 1983 had already proved infantile as it had been based on unrealistic assumptions which had resulted in the harsh economic adjustments being imposed by government.

Mr. Clarke charged that the sudden announcement by Alpart had caught the Government by surprise for the third time. He said that the reason was that the Government had placed the industry on the "back burner", pointing out that except for a few months, the mining industry had not had a full time Minister during the past five years.

He said the questionable alliances by the Government with market manipulators whose personal interest was of necessity paramount to Jamaica's, should be terminated.

Marketing Strategy

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Aug 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

HOPES FOR JAMAICA'S BOUNCE-BACK in the bauxite and alumina industry are being pinned on a three-pronged marketing strategy which could earn for the country an additional US\$55 million a year from the sale of 500,000 tonnes of alumina by the end of 1986.

Strategies to secure new markets will be directed at countries which have influence in the industry, traders in the marketplace and certain foreign companies.

Efforts at seeking new markets to fill the gap will be "unceasing," according to the Executive Director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, Dr. Carlton Davis, in an interview with the *Gleaner* yesterday.

The country's bauxite/alumina industry suffered another setback last week when Alpart's owners, Reynolds and Kaiser, announced the temporary closing down of the plant, putting 1,150 workers out of jobs and reducing the country's alumina output by 650,000 tonnes.

Dr. Davis said that a lot of work was going on in terms of exploring new markets. This is against the background of a US\$30 million loss to the national budget arising from the Alpart closure, expected to be felt in the last three months of this financial year (January to March 1986).

Dr. Davis said that the objective was to see if some more bauxite could be sold to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR); but this was difficult due to the distance.

Jamaica is supplying a contract of 825,000 tonnes of bauxite a year to the Soviet Union, lasting for seven years and valued at US\$100 million. Dr. Davis said that it was very difficult at this stage to determine what additional amounts of the product would be sold to the USSR, which consumes three million tonnes of aluminium and 12 million tonnes of bauxite yearly.

"It's a matter of just how much of this we can pinch," he said.

Opportunities could also arise from the European industry because producers there were either scaling down output or shutting down. Potential sales existed as well in reduction plants in North America which Jamaica depended on as a market for alumina.

"Globally you have a surplus but there are opportunities of squeezing in by unique arrangements," he said.

Dr. Davis stated that the problem with Europe and North America, however, was that they had an array of hustlers who were prepared to buy anything as long as they could get a margin.

Sales expected from the new market thrust will be in the region of US\$55 million or 500,000 tonnes of alumina between now and the end of 1986.

Jamaica would not be selling indiscriminately to traders but would rigorously screen prospective buyers, Dr. Davis said.

Bauxite output for this year has been projected at six million tonnes.

JAMAICA

DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON WAGE, PRICE FREEZE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Aug 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE GOVERNMENT DISAGREES with any price or wage freeze as a matter of policy, the Minister of the Public Service, the Hon. Errol Anderson, told the House of Representatives yesterday.

Mr. Anderson, in an obvious reaction to the suggestion made by the Minister of Labour, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, in the House last week Wednesday that the country might have to consider a freeze on both incomes and prices, said:

The Government "disagrees with any price or wage freeze, as a matter of policy, as being inimical to the foundations of a social market economy to which we are committed."

Mr. Anderson was listing the Government principles in regards to the activities taking place in the public sector, and specifically the redundancies and wage negotiations affecting public employees in his contribution to the sectoral debate which ended last night.

He said that the Government...

- Recognised the necessity of and pledged a system of collective bargaining and free negotiations.

- Admitted that there existed justification for wage claims founded on increased output and productivity gains.

- Admitted the necessity for adjusting the minimum wages and providing a higher threshold for pensioners and workers in order to support a minimum standard.

- Recognised the need for periodic adjustment in wage and fringe benefits required to reflect the appreciation within a rational wage structure of experience, skill, training which contributed to efficiency and increased productivity.

- Affirmed and supported free collective bargaining and minimum standards of living. However, periodic wage increases must be subject to compelling factors of national interest.

- Disagreed with any price or wage freeze, as a matter of policy as being inimical to the foundations of social market economy to which the Government is committed.

● Urged the unions to negotiate within the limits of the budgetary allocations for wage and fringe benefits during the fiscal year.

Mr. Anderson said that he appreciated that in times of price adjustments the union leaders were in a difficult position:

"Like ourselves, it must be appreciated, they are necessarily concerned with political issues affecting their own position vis a vis their membership, also their standing in relation to inter-union rivalry.

"Even if the union leaders are knowledgeable and sympathetic to the economic situation, the union membership, in general, may not be presumed to have achieved the same level of sophistication. The membership looks to the union for leadership and guidance and it is expected that the workers would be guided by the leadership on the realities of the present economic situation.

"Sometimes, of course, the more militant workers in the movement seek to posture a more uncompromising stand even at the cost of job security. Let me warn: it is futile to believe that industrial action can provide increased wage benefits beyond what the country can afford. If it were not so, I would have told you."

However, he, said that he did not mean to say that the claims of the unions had no social justice behind them.

"In fact, any claims which represent the need to address the problems of the public sector workers in Jamaica have some merit. The fact is that there are no resources to even do what the Government would wish to do for its employees, in order to retain the best people in its employment. This truly is a time for restraint, but one wonders if the workers are conscious of the implications of the current claims before the Government."

Continuing, Mr. Anderson said: "The House will recall that the present pay cycle commenced in April, 1983 and came to an end in March, 1985. At that time half the public sector was given what was described as a new pay plan and the other half was given a carrying-on allowance, with an assurance that in April, 1985, those who received the new pay plan in 1983 would themselves get a lower increase, while those who received the carrying-on allowances would receive a higher increase.

"Within these terms, we have placed on the tables an offer of 15% this year and 12½% for next year, effective April 1st, 1985; or, alternatively, 18% this year, effective first July and 12½% for next year. Those categories receiving the full increases last time have been offered 10% for this year and 10% for next year, effective in April this year.

"These offers have been carefully worked

out within the limits of the Government Wage Fund which the Prime Minister announced in the Budget Speech. This represents 11% of the Wage Bill of the Government categories now being negotiated. It is approximately \$1.06 billion and affects about 110,000 workers.

"The House should be interested to know that the union claims when costed on the most conservative basis, demand a wage settlement of nearly \$900 million or over 82% of the present Wage Bill which would have to be spread over two years. Needless to say that there exist no resources to accommodate such claims.

"The significance of the union demands, if met, would be that we could not repay debts, pay no rent, buy no fuel, make no telephone calls and even be able to buy paper on which to write a single letter.

"Even so, Mr. Speaker, it should be known that the offers being made mean the taxpayers must find \$250 million over a two-year period, a significant sum for the Ministry of Finance these days."

CSO: 3298/954

JAMAICA

GLEANER NOTES 'IRONY' IN U.S. TRADE POLICIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Excerpts]

One of the facts of life which exporting countries, particularly those in the developing world, have to face is the protectionist policy of those countries to which they wish to sell their goods but whose markets they find either limited or totally closed to them because of the protectionist walls which have been created there.

As economic alliances grow, as countries develop closer economic ties, protectionism takes on the colour of atavistic self-interest.

Here in Jamaica, the effects of this policy, as shown by the United States, has made itself felt. The recent experience with respect to "Milo" where the power of Presidential regulation has been used to prevent the entry and sale of a food product containing a miniscule amount of sugar; the previous experiences with respect to the

prevention of the entry of Jamaican citrus into the U.S. market; the powerful lobby which has been put into motion with respect to the establishment of an ethanol plant here — all point to the adverse effects of U.S. protectionism on the Jamaican economy.

Even so generous a gesture as the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which has opened the U.S. market to a wide range of Caribbean products, had to be limited in respect to certain goods which could possibly affect U.S. interests in the home market.

There is something of an irony in the fact that while this country, in an exuberance of goodwill, has opened its own small market to U.S. exporters, some of its own products continue to be denied entry into the large and lucrative market of the United States on terms and conditions which make a mockery of the free-market philosophy which both countries are said to share.

CSO: 3298/954

JAMAICA

PETROJAM SAID TO BE SQUEEZING OUT INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Jul 85 p 1

[Excerpts]

The three international oil companies operating in Jamaica are concerned about what they see as a move to squeeze them out of the local market. This trend has evolved with the government-owned Petroleum Company of Jamaica bidding to supply fuel oil to large customers such as Jamaica Public Service Co., Caribbean Cement Company, Jamaica Flour Mills, the Bauxite/Alumina Companies and sugar factories. A spokesman for one of the oil companies told the Gleaner that this is the only lucrative part of the market left and that the Petroleum Company of Jamaica, as sole supplier of fuel oils, can underbid the private companies every time.

A new dimension was added with Petrojam's advertised intention of entering the service station business and the Prime Minister's recent statement that Petrojam would be getting involved in the haulage of petroleum products.

It is understood that Petrojam is also quoting prices direct to asphalt purchasers.

The biggest oil customer is the Jamaica Public Service Co. To date, their fuel has been supplied by one or other of the marketing companies — with the proviso that these companies purchase it from Petrojam. Currently the Hunts Bay station is supplied by Esso and the Old

Harbour station is supplied by Shell. These contracts are reviewed annually. Oil industry sources confirm that Petrojam has made proposals to J.P.S.Co. in respect of both locations and in the case of Hunts Bay has offered to build a pipeline to the site thus by-passing and duplicating the Esso facility.

Esso, Shell, and Texaco have all bid on the contract to supply the new power barge at Rockfort. So has Petrojam. The bids were submitted a month ago and the result should be announced shortly.

One private sector oil executive told the Gleaner: "As long as we are competing on an equitable basis, that's O.K., but if Petrojam is going to use refinery margins against the oil companies there is no possible way we can compete with that."

Oil executives told the Gleaner that despite frequent requests the Minister of Mining has not clarified the marketing issue nor has he defined Government's role and oil policy. Policy, he said, appears to be set by the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (parent company of Petrojam). "It's a case of the tail wagging the dog."

It appears that the unrest in the oil industry which has surfaced as strikes by tanker drivers and service station operators is just the tip of a very large, international iceberg.

JAMAICA

LAYOFFS, UNREST CHARACTERIZE CURRENT LABOR PROBLEMS

1984 Statistics

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

Work stoppages fell by 30.8 percent, and industrial disputes by 2.9 percent last year, despite "many dismissals, layoffs and redundancies in various sectors of the economy."

The Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica 1984 states that there were 643 industrial disputes reported in 1984 down from 662 in 1983. Dismissals and suspensions were the main causes of the disputes.

Of the reported disputes 63 resulted in strikes down from 91 in 1983. Major cause of the strikes were related to wages. "However, wage issues accounted for 30 per cent fewer cases of work stoppages in 1984 than in 1983."

The service sector had 30.2 percent of the strikes while the manufacturing sector had 23.8 percent. Strikes in the essential services declined from 23 to 22 (4.3 percent) compared with 1983.

According to the Survey the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU) and the National Workers Union (NWU) combined were actively involved in 57.9 percent of disputes and 55.6 percent of work stoppages reported.

"The BITU was involved in the greatest number of strikes triggered by wage disputes with the NWU in second place. Individual representatives, staff associations and trade unions in joint bargaining groups continued to be quite active in these areas of industrial relations."

The Ministry of Labour processed 627 or 77.6 percent of a total of 808 disputes. This reflected a decline of 10 percent from 1983. Of the total disposed of 51.7 per cent were settled by the Ministry while 15.1 per cent were returned to the local level.

Last year the Industrial Disputes Tribunal received 83 disputes for settlement compared to 104 the previous year. The IDT handed down 56 awards. — C.W.

Alcoa Reopening

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Jul 85 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt]

THE LIGHTING OF BURNERS AT Alcoa Minerals of Jamaica at Halse Hall, Clarendon yesterday signalled the restart of operations since the plant closed down February last.

Alcoa's general manager Mr. Jerry Dudley said that the full complement of 800 workers would be taken on by the end of this week. He said production of alumina would start within a week's time as the lighting of the boilers got into full gear.

It is expected that 800,000 tonnes of alumina per year will be produced initially.

BITU Reversal

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The Bustamante Industrial Trade Union has said that on further examination of the Government's offer for settlement of the claim for improvements in wages and other benefits for public sector workers from the six main trade unions in the public sector, the offer had been found unacceptable.

The union made the statement in a letter to the Minister of the Public Service, the Hon. Errol Anderson, dated July 24, which was copied to the news media, and which also called for a higher wage and fringe benefits offer from the Government.

"The proposals before us are unacceptable not only because of the inadequacy of the wage offer in relation to the cost of living increases and other factors which have reduced the living standards of the

employees, but because the offer does not provide for settlement of the other items of claim as set out in our letters affecting the various headings of allowances, shift premium and revision of the basis of redundancy payments," the letter said.

The union said that it was further dissatisfied with the Government's offer which would: (a) reduce substantially the amount of increase for 1985/86, the first year of the offer; (b) deduct from the first offer, substantial amount in the first year to make up the higher offer in the second year.

The BITU continued:

"This was particularly unfair to the thousands of workers being retrenched in the first year, who would lose the amount in your offer for the first year of 1985/86 and would not be on the Government's payroll in the second year to even recover the

loss of the offer that was inadequate in the first instance.

"The calculation will show that at the percentage increase offered in the second financial year, 1986/87, at the expense of the offer in the first year, the workers would have to work for many months in the second year to recover the loss in the revised offer.

"For example in the case of an unskilled weekly-paid worker (GSL1) at \$127.50 per week, the 15% increase offered in the first year would be worth \$7,624.50 per annum. The same worker, by the revised offer, at 18% as from the 1st July, 1985, would in the financial year only earn \$5,867.55.

"It is the second year that there would be a difference. On the basis of the first offer, the 12½% increase for the full year would produce

\$8,577.56 while on the basis of the 12½% on the second offer, the increase would be \$8,801.32 for the year. Account must be taken of the fact, however, that the loss of earnings on the first offer in the financial year 1985/86 would be \$1757 which is the difference between a total of \$7,624.50 and \$5,867.55."

The union said that the loss to the employees between the two offers was not confined to the unskilled category only, as it also applied to all categories in the revised offer now before the unions, with higher losses on higher wage and salary scales. The loss of earnings in the 1985/86 financial year was compounded by the effect of the loss on the workers' overtime earnings, statutory contributions,

provident fund, insurance and other wage related payments.

"These factors plus the disadvantage to the thousands of workers being displaced during the 1985/86 financial year add to the reasons for our rejection of the offer.

"The six trade unions wish to negotiate with you in good faith and settle the outstanding claims in the national interest, and urge you to meet us with a higher wage offer and proposals for settlement of the other claims so that an agreement can be reached."

Local Government Layoffs

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

The Ministry of Local Government has directed all Parish Councils to make all employees in cemeteries, parks and gardens and life guards at public beaches redundant with immediate effect as no money will be available to pay them as of today, Friday, August 9.

The Ministry's directive was given in a circular to the Councils and read at the various monthly Council meetings yesterday.

At the St. James Parish Council, a heated debate followed the reading of the circular and councillors demanded that the matter be brought forcefully to the attention of the Prime Minister himself as they felt he was unaware of what was taking place in the Ministry of Local Government.

There was consensus that the Council ignore the directive but on the suggestion of the Secretary, Mr. Fred O'Meally, the meeting was adjourned for an in camera session at the end of which the **Western Bureau** was advised that "something is being worked out" to save the situation.

However funeral parlours in Montego Bay were advised yesterday that burial at the Pye River Cemetery had to be postponed indefinitely as of today.

Having regard to the regularity with which funerals are conducted, councillors noted that it would be a catastrophe if the Pye Cemetery had to be closed.

Public Service Dismissals

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

One hundred and five workers of the Jamaica Public Service Company have been dismissed following enquiries held by the company into their absence from work during the June general strike.

A Ministry of Labour source told the *Gleaner* yesterday that 188 workers were suspended and after meetings at the Ministry between management and the unions representing the displaced workers, 83 were taken back.

The unions — NWU, BITU and UTASP — have raised objections to the dismissals and next week, Minister of Labour, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, will be asking the parties to again go to the local level to settle differences, or the issue will have to go to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal.

Union Unrest

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Aug 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

There is disquiet on the labour front as trade unions, faced with thousands of their members being made redundant or otherwise losing their jobs in the public sector, the biggest employer, push for talks with the authorities.

A Ministry of Labour spokesman told the *Gleaner* this week "things are quiet" on the labour front, compared to June and July, but spokesmen for the various unions said differently.

In two major public utilities, the industrial situation seemed to have been defused for the time being.

The Ministry of Labour spokesman said yesterday that at the Jamaica Public Service Company the issue of dismissals and suspension of workers who participated in the general strike was to be sent to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal, and in regard to rural firemen, the Ministry would be seeking legal advice from the Attorney General's Department

and would be getting back to the unions.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga had said that the public sector was "overloaded" and staff cuts had to be made to fit into the national budget.

Opening the 1985/86 budget debate in Parliament on June 6, he said "but the fact has to be faced that the category of the labour force denoted as public administration, which is the category for all public officials, increased by 40,000 during the 1970s and was reduced since then by some 8,000 up to 1983."

This, he said, created a financial burden which had become impossible to bear. He said with the gap in budget financing, staff adjustments

would have to be made on a "significant scale."

There have been several letters of protest to the authorities and news releases since the thousands of redundancies, dismissals and disciplinary action taken, especially since the general strike called by the trade unions in June to protest what was going on.

Up to yesterday, the **Gleaner** understands, more than 800 firemen employed to 12 rural Parish Councils, were still off the job after taking part in the general strike in protest against Government policies.

Soldiers were manning the fire stations except for those in St. Catherine, Manchester and St. Thomas.

Rattray, Patterson and Rattray, attorneys-at-law, in a letter to the Minister of Labour, dated August 7, said they represented the Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers (JALGO) and "we refer to a letter dated July 23, 1985 from JALGO requiring you to carry out your functions under Section 9 (3) (b) of the Labour Relations Industrial Disputes Act by giving directions in writing to the 12 Parish Councils to require the resumption of employment of the locked-out firemen. Our instructions are that you have not responded to this request although the Act requires you to do so within the period of ten days ... we hereby formally require you immediately to refer the dispute to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal as mandated by Section 9 of the Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act."

The National Workers Union (NWU) in a release on August 7, said "at a public sector workers' meeting at Mandeville All-Age School on August 1, a resolution was unanimously passed, moved by a JALGO delegate and seconded by a NWU delegate, calling upon the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, Deputy Prime Minister and President/General of the BITU, to intervene into "the unprecedented lock-out of Parish Councils' firemen from July 1, so as to restore the unconditional restoration of normality."

The NWU also said that in addition to its report to the Ministry of Labour, the union had formally reported the "lock-out" of the firemen to the Parish Councils Services Commission, "the only body which has jurisdictional authority as far as appointment, removal, dismissal and disciplinary controls of Parish Councils' firemen who are unified services officers (are concerned)."

"Up to date, no fireman attached to any of the Parish Councils has been charged by the Parish Councils Services Commission as there is no letter sent out from the Commission in response to report from the Secretaries of the 12 Parish Councils that the men were absent from duty between June 24 and 30, without being on leave."

Mr. J.A.G. Myers, NWU vice-president, with special responsibility in the public sector, told the **Gleaner** yesterday that for the 800-odd rural firemen to be served letters and face disciplinary charges under the law, it would take over two years.

The Ministry of Labour spokesman said yesterday they were getting legal advice on the matter.

He said another meeting of union delegates in the public sector was set for Mandeville All-Age School this Saturday, August 17, starting at 10.30 a.m. at which an update of the situation would be the main topic.

Elsewhere on the labour front, NWU sources said they were unhappy about persons losing their jobs at the Government Printing Office, rural cemeteries and markets, and hospitals.

President of the Jamaica Workers' Union, Mr. Clifton Brown, on August 7, sent a letter to the Minister of the Public Service, Hon. Errol Anderson, on the matter of redundancies and "gratuitous" compensation.

The union, he told the **Gleaner** yesterday, was one which represented ancillary workers, such as orderlies, ward assistants and cooks, in the health services.

Mr. Brown said in the Kingston Public Hospital region, covering the Kingston Public Hospital, Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Bustamante Children's Hospital, Mona Rehab Centre, at least 190 workers had been made redundant.

His letter in part said: "We also wish to point out that this programme (redundancy and gratuitous compensation affecting public sector workers) is being carried out in a high-handed manner in that no dialogue is established and maintained between the employer Government and the unions representing the workers when the redundancies are contemplated, and therefore there is no certainty that justice and fair play is being exercised."

"It is also observed that tremendous amount of workers are being deprived of large portions of their gratuitous benefits due to the fact that no proper records have been kept of the services of the workers (mainly those classified as temporary) over the years."

Mr. Brown said up to yesterday, they had got no response from the Ministry to the number of communications they had made to the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Labour.

Mr. James Francis, president of the United Union of Jamaica, in a letter to the **Gleaner** said: "the Union wishes to make mention that the membership of the small unions also lost pay in the national strike. The U.U.J. warns that if and when the next struggle comes, it is only prepared to make the sacrifice of participation if, and only if, it is satisfied with the degree of union displayed among trade unions."

He also expressed concern at the closing down of the Telegraph Section of the Post and Telegraphs Department, and said the union was "distressed over the long delay by the Ministry of Public Service to set up a meeting with this union with respect to wage and fringe benefits claims which were served on that Ministry since February 1, 1985."

The PNP in release on August 8, said its spokesman on Labour, Mr. Derrick Rochester, called on the management of Government-owned institutions to "desist from implementing imposed decisions which result in victimisation, dismissals and other acts which are contrary to the industrial relations laws and practices."

Mr. Rochester said he felt it necessary to make this public call in view of recent actions taken by

the Jamaica Public Service (105 dismissed of 188 called before enquiries after being absent from work during the general strike), and the Jamaica Telephone Company (employees who took part in the strike had reports of their absence put on their personal files, despite a management/union agreement that this would not be done, but afterwards overturned by Government directive).

On the education front, the negotiating team of the Jamaica Teachers' Association, is to meet with Minister Anderson on Friday in another attempt to settle a new wage and fringe benefits contract for the island's teachers.

A JTA release said a meeting held on August 9 "ended without any progress being made on the teachers' claims."

The JTA's team led by the President, Mr. Noel Monteith, "expects that the meeting next week (on Friday) will provide an offer which can be placed before the JTA's conference on August 20."

Alumina Plant Closure

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Aug 85 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] Alpart owners, Kaiser and Reynolds, announced yesterday a decision to temporarily suspend production at the Nain, St Elizabeth plant, throwing 1,200 workers out of jobs effective as of tomorrow.

Announcement of the closure comes 11 days after both partners bought out the 27 percent shares owned by Atlantic Richfield Company in Alpart.

Sources said at the time that the second strategy of the partners was to examine the future of Alpart now that the question of ownership had been resolved.

"We regret very much having to take this action," said Ed Coyne, Alpart's newly appointed general manager, in a statement last night. "Alpart has made progress in addressing its cost efficiency."

Mr Coyne said that a new conveying system was enabling the plant to obtain a better grade of bauxite, but the fact remained that aluminum was presently in heavy over-supply.

And in a statement last night, the Minister of Mining and Energy, the Hon Hugh Hart said that the Government was trying to avoid the closure of Alpart through talks with the company some six months now.

"The disparity between production cost and available spot prices has continued to be too large for there to be any other economic alternative," he said.

Mr Hart said it was becoming more apparent that efforts to identify the country's own secured marketplace rather than "depending solely upon the companies to market our own alumina, must be intensified."

To this end the Government had been "exploring opportunities" and he hoped to make a further statement on this aspect of the matter in the near future.

The Alpart plant will be mothballed and properly maintained to facilitate re-starting as soon as market conditions warrant.

In this regard, Mr Hart said that the Government hoped to persuade the partners to find employment for as many persons as could be accommodated in the mothballing operations of the plant.

[Editor's Note: A CANA report carried by the Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN of 16 August, page 4, notes that "The Jamaican economy expects to lose \$60 million per annum as long as the Aluminium Partners of Jamaica (Alpart) alumina plant here remains closed, according to the company's general manager, Ed Coyne. He said the loss will not take effect until the 1986-87 financial year."]

CSO: 3298/957

JAMAICA

SEAGA URGES MANUFACTURERS TO GET INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga yesterday urged manufacturers and traders to diversify their operations to become more involved in agriculture. Speaking to an audience of mainly private sector representatives as well as farmers at the Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston yesterday morning, he said that if some of those present decided to diversify "in a serious way, the agricultural revolution which is taking place would be given a great impetus and its success would be ensured and enhanced."

Mr. Seaga outlined investment opportunities for rice production under the Government's Self-Sufficiency Programme and measures being taken by the Government to make under-utilized and unused lands more accessible to the private sector.

Part of an overall four-year plan to enable Jamaica to become as self-sufficient as possible in certain agricultural commodities is increased production of locally grown rice. Jamaica currently imports 60,000 short tons of finished rice which is equivalent to 100,000 tons of paddy. This, Mr. Seaga said, would require 100,000 tons of paddy annually produced here to meet local demands. It would involve putting 33,000 acres of land under rice production to produce two crops per year at an economic yield of three tons of paddy per annum.

Agro 21 has identified 24,000 acres of land suitable for producing rice. Over the next three years yields from this land could make Jamaica 73% self-sufficient in rice and save the country approximately US\$15.33 million per annum. At present there are 3,600 crop acres in rice saving US\$1.27 million in foreign exchange. Beginning this Sunday and continuing for four successive months there will be advertisements both in the press and the electronic media inviting applications for underutilized and non-utilized Government lands on a crop by crop basis. The first of these will be in rice.

There are 47 Government properties available for divestment by way of long term lease, comprising approximately 36,000 acres of land. Five of these properties are suitable for rice production and vary in size from 200 acres to 4,000 acres. The necessary administrative and preparatory work has been done since the launching of the self-sufficiency programme by Mr. Seaga last October, thus applications for lease of Government owned lands will be processed with greater efficiency and speed. The applications will be forwarded to the Divestment Committee for recommendation.

Each area has been zoned for the crops for which it is best suited, and each property has been documented

by the Agro 21 Secretariat as to the location, size, soil composition and the availability of water for irrigation purposes. In addition economic profiles are available as to the profitability of each crop.

"In order to speed up the process of divestment the Government along with Agro 21 has developed a Standard Agro 21 lease on the basis of three important commercial negotiations" Mr. Seaga said.

First, the Government will retain the land in trust for the people, second the lessee will be at risk for farming and third the commercial banks will be at risk for providing loans to the lessees. The terms of the 49-year lease was framed in consultation with commercial banks to allow it to be acceptable as collateral for loans which will enable farmers to have easier access to credit. The arrangement also reduces the need for large capital investment by purchasing farms. Minimum farm plans have to be provided by the lessee which will establish minimum productivity standards.

Mr. Seaga said there are some 60,000 acres available for small scale development. This would be divested by way of sale to small farmers and already some 20,000 acres had been sold. Over the next four years, he

said, some 40,000 acres will be divested to small farmers.

However, the Prime Minister mentioned there are other products which would be looked at to help Jamaica become as self-sufficient as possible. He expected that in the next three years the country would be 30% self sufficient in corn, 30% in soya, 123% in fish, 25% in dairy products, 100% in beef.

The Government has put together two projects at Holland Estate and Amity Hall to put between them another 5,400 crop acres into production securing a further US\$1.7 million in savings.

Mr. Seaga reminded his audience that the investor must bring with him modern technology to increase production. Most businessmen, he said, could acquire that kind of technology. He said feasibility studies have been completed and are now available, there is \$30 million in the Agricultural Credit Bank and it is "vitally important for businessmen to become involved in agriculture."

By 1989, Mr. Seaga said, Jamaica expects to save US\$67 million and provide employment for an additional 11,000 persons including small farmers who are involved in the Self-Sufficiency programme.

JAMAICA

HIGHLIGHTS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 5-YEAR PROGRAM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Aug 85 p 22

[Text]

THE JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, as part of its restructuring programme, has settled for a "Medium Term 5-Year Projects" programme of development, designed to meet the second half of the decade of the Eighties.

The programme was formulated following a series of meetings, seminars and retreats, involving the Board of Management and experts in various disciplines such as management, marketing and public relations.

The "Working Paper" was adopted by the 90th annual general meeting of the Society held in the auditorium of the Bank of Jamaica on July 9 and 10. It contained recommendations covering areas such as constitutional reform, administration, finance, rural development, land reform, information and publications.

The summary of the programme states:

1. Farmers' Co-op Credit Union: To provide a savings vehicle for farmers which can assist in making loans readily available.

2. Irish potato seed production: To develop a production of Irish potato seeds locally in order to save foreign exchange and expand the Irish potato industry into export.

3. Seed production: To develop a joint venture programme with an international seed organisation for the production of suitable vegetable and flower seeds.

4. Bee-Keeping Industry Association: To respond to bee-farmers' requests to organise a bee-keeping association for the development of the industry and to ensure continuous supply of equipment and proper marketing supplies for honey.

5. Inland Fisheries Association: To respond

to fish-farmers' requests to organise an Inland Fisheries Association for the development of the industry and to ensure continuous supply of equipment and effective marketing systems.

6. Denbigh Development Project: To utilize the Denbigh show grounds permanently by leasing lots on a long-term basis, and by setting up other facilities.

7. JAS/4-H Clubs Young Farmers Development Project: To re-establish close working relationships between youth organisations, e.g. 4-H Clubs and the JAS as a feeder programme to the District Branch Societies; to initiate the development of leadership at the district level, and to communicate new developments in technology to farmers.

8. School Garden Project: To establish model farms in schools as a vehicle for stimulating community interest in agriculture.

9. Church Land Co-operation Project: To develop under-utilized church lands and to enrol the support of the Church in the rural development thrust.

10. Rural Land Development Agency: To establish a rural developmental agency similar to the U.D.C., to work along with the JAS to execute development projects in rural Jamaica according to land suitability.

11. Parish Show franchise development: To ensure the quality of parish shows by directing them centrally from the JAS on a franchise basis, with the JAS receiving 20% of the revenues from the shows.

12. Food Fairs: To encourage the utilization of local foodstuffs and product development using local produce. The development of an international cuisine is also an objective.

13. JAS new headquarters: To construct a new head office to house a restructured JAS.

14. JAS/Land Authorities collaboration: To ensure that JAS involvement with Land Authorities is effective, and to facilitate two-way communication between the JAS and these Land Authorities.

15. JAS/PC Banks collaboration: To assist in the mobilization of savings in the farming community, and to expedite the issue of loans by having the JAS directorate serving on boards, and helping to develop approaches to issue loans to farmers.

16. Santa Cruz Land Development Project: To develop the Society's property in Santa Cruz as a source of finance for its administrative functions.

17. Bluefields property: To develop a land settlement as a tenant farming model.

CSO: 3298/996

JAMAICA

YOUTH DELEGATES GO TO MOSCOW; PNP, WPJ CRITICIZED

Composition of Delegation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Jul 85 p 2

[Text]

The first part of the Jamaican delegation to the 17th World Festival of Youth and Students left the Norman Manley airport for Moscow last weekend.

Also leaving were Mr. Barrington Watson, internationally renowned Jamaican artist, and Mr. Cleve Webber, Jamaican artist, who were invited by the Union of Artists of the U.S.S.R. to be special guests at the Festival.

A release from the Jamaica National Preparatory Committee (J.N.P.C) for the Festival said the rest of the Jamaican delegation, includes pop singer, Gem Myers; The Unique Vision Band; Mr. Arthur Newland, General Secretary of the YCL-WPJ; Mr. Joe Ruglass, founding member of the "Count Ossie and the Mystic Revelation of Rastafari" musical group will leave the island later this week.

The delegation is being led by Mr. Dennis Smith, Chairman, and Mrs. Rev. Majorie Lewis-Cooper, Co-ordinating Secretary of the Preparatory Committee.

The delegation includes: reggae artist and film star, Bob Andy; President of the U.W.I. Guild of Undergraduates, Mr. Lawrence Jackson; youth leaders from a number of Christian denominations affiliated to the Jamaica Council of Churches; trade union, youth clubs and student leaders from several parts of the country; Mr. Dougal Campbell, Central Committee member of the Workers Party of Jamaica and National Youth Organiser of the Young Communist League, and Mr. Lorenzo Ellis, General Secretary of the Peoples National Party Youth.

Minister's Criticism

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

Minister of the Public Service, the Hon. Errol Anderson, has criticised the youth wings of the PNP and the WPJ for attending the current international youth conference and festival of arts in Moscow.

Mr. Anderson said that a massive disinformation campaign had been conducted by the Soviet Union to discredit the International Youth Conference for democratic youths which was held in Kingston earlier this year. The tactic was particularly effective among European liberal youth organizations, who fearing U.S. control of the conference did not attend as IYC delegates.

He said that the Soviet Union had also pressured democratic youth organizations not to attend, as well as orchestrating a boycott of the conference in Jamaica and a demonstration here by the People's National Party's Youth Organization (PNPYO), a member of the "Soviet controlled" World Federation of Democratic Youth, and the Workers' Party of Jamaica (WPJ). He said that the two groups after criticising the IYC in Kingston had now gone to the "communist" youth conference in Moscow.

"No matter what they say, actions speak louder than words," Mr. Anderson said.

He said that the campaign mounted against the Kingston conference; "probably cost the Soviet Union as much as, if not more than, the money spent to put on the conference.

"Further indication of the Soviet concern was the appointment of Gedar Aliyev, Politburo member and KGB official, to head Soviet youth activities. It is to the conference organised by the Director of the KGB that Jamaicans have gone to Moscow to participate," Mr. Anderson said.

CSO: 3298/955

JAMAICA

ARSON AT NEWSMAN'S OFFICE; 'CLIMATE OF FEAR' CITED

Police Report

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 28 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

Fire believed to have been an attempt at arson damaged a door at the office of University Lecturer and **Gleaner** columnist, Professor Carl Stone, on the Mona campus of the University, yesterday morning.

A Police report said that the fire could have occurred between 4 a.m.

and 7.30 a.m. Petrol is suspected to have been thrown at the door. The Police were alerted about the incident at 7.30 a.m.

A plastic bottle smelling of petrol was found about a chain away, on the roof of the first floor of the Social Science block, where Dr. Stone's office is located.

A box of matches was found on the lawn east of the Social Science block, leading in

the general direction of the Taylor Hall of Residence and the University Hospital.

Marks on the door near to the lock and a crack on the glass panel above the door suggested that an attempt had been made to enter the office.

Detective Corporal Lloyd Warren, of the UWI Police Station, is investigating the incident.

Stone's Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Jul 85 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Excerpt]

DURING THE MONTH of July I received two poison-pen letters which directed lengthy personal abuse at me for my criticisms of Prime Minister Seaga and his policies.

The second was especially vicious and was accompanied by a copy of my column titled, "Mr. Seaga's strike". The column was covered with abusive comments intended to complement those contained in the unsigned letter.

I showed both the letter and the column copy to acting **Gleaner** Editor, J.C. Proute, who expressed distress at the extent to which some people seemed willing to go to attack those who disagree with their political leanings.

Exactly three days after receiving that second letter, someone attempted to set my office on fire. It may be that there is no connection between these two events but the close coincidence in time is very suggestive.

To be sure, the harassment of persons who criticise politicians in power is not a new development. In the 1970's I received quite a few threats by telephone and personal abuse for criticising the PNP and publishing polls which predicted that party's defeat.

Under both regimes there has been a spate of malicious letter-writing designed to establish that my criticism of both parties and my polls are products of personal malice.

Indeed, a member of the university's staff in the Department of History was almost beaten by PNP goons because someone high up in that party had instructed them to beat me up and he unfortunately fitted the description they were given of me. He had a beard like mine and happened to drive a car of the same colour.

These activities not only get sanction and approval high up in the power structure of our political parties, but they are encouraged by statements made by our party leaders which imply that critics are acting out of malice. A recent comment in the country's Parliament by a JLP Minister of Government (who happens to be a UWI graduate) gave the unfortunate impression that UWI academics who have been criticising the JLP are doing so maliciously.

Climate of fear

It is interesting that the attempt to burn down my UWI office occurred on the night before I was beginning

another national opinion poll.

A climate of fear engulfs this land to a degree that is even greater than in the 1970's. I was far more critical of the PNP than I have been of the JLP. Yet far more friends, colleagues and associates, as well as strangers, have cautioned me to be careful about JLP reprisals. Indeed, one person who offered that advice is a member of the JLP.

People grumble and gripe about things they don't like but are too intimidated to speak out publicly. The few of us who do are seen as foolishly exposing ourselves to harassment.

Indeed, when these things happen no one expresses even the faintest element of surprise. Everyone expects that critics will be dealt with, one way or the other.

But democratic institutions and democratic traditions are a sham unless citizens have the courage to express their views freely and openly and without fear.

There was a great hue and cry about the comments the Rev. Edmund Davis made about the Prime Minister. But there was an even more significant and ominous silence on the issue of the loads of garbage that were deposited at the Council of Churches office in an obvious act of reprisal against the Rev. Mr. Davis. It is as if it is now an accepted norm that this is how critics can expect to be dealt with by those who control power.

Criticism of JLP Response

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Aug 85 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

Several weeks before the fire bombing of my office at the University, my colleague John Hearne received letters telling him which columnists who were criticising Mr. Seaga were to be dealt with.

Hearne is not a coward. Nor is he a man who panics easily. Yet the second of the two letters which was written in especially vicious language shook him up. He insisted every time he saw me over a period of a week that I should be careful.

Hearne is still so shaken up by that second letter that he refuses either to give it to me or to allow me to make a copy out of fear that if the author is traced and a link is made with the fire bombing of my office, the safety of his family might be endangered.

Hearne's reaction to that letter speaks to the climate of fear that I addressed in last Monday's column.

Now both Ministers Charles and Golding have issued statements denying that the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), has anything to do with the attack on my office. Both quite curiously suggest that I must consider the possibility that some interest seeking to put the blame on the JLP was most likely responsible.

Golding makes the further claim that he has personally investigated the matter and found the JLP to be innocent. Charles even casts doubts on whether the attack has any political motivation.

I find it interesting that the JLP's statements came as a reaction to my column rather than as a reaction to the fire bombing incident. As the party responsible for governing the country what the JLP has to say on the subject would attract much more credibility had these JLP spokesmen publicly condemned the fire bombing of my office before I wrote a column making reference to hostile letters I had been receiving from persons supportive of the Seaga Government.

Contrary to what Charles and Golding claim I did not accuse the JLP of trying to burn down my office. What I said was that there may be a connection between the fire and these poison letters which have taken me to task for criticising the Prime Minister. Also, that the timing is curiously coincides with my carrying out another Stone Poll. In fact I had a notice on my door all week reminding some interviewers of our meeting on the poll. That notice might have triggered a reaction.

Possible link

All I suggested was that these facts suggested a possible JLP link.

The JLP naturally is seeking to extricate itself from any suspicion but for these gentlemen to suggest that I am being either irresponsible or emotional in pointing out that possible link is quite ludicrous to say the least.

Can our investigating Minister assure either the police or myself

that there is no link between the letters and the fire bombing? Can Mr. Golding tell us what his investigation revealed about the authorship of letters? Can Mr. Golding tell me why John Hearne is so frightened although he writes almost every two weeks assuring us about the genius of Mr. Seaga? The link with the JLP is neither based on emotion nor indignation but rests on those letters.

Now as a recent *Gleaner* editorial made quite clear political parties do not have full control over what their members and fanatical supporters do. Political reprisals can come from three levels. From the party organisation itself, from individual party persons in leadership positions who often act on their own or from individual activists and groups of activists who take matters in their own hands.

Exactly three days after Mr. Michael Manley's speech at Sam Sharpe square which denounced my polls in

1980 as JLP-CIA propaganda a gang of women armed with knives and ice picks turned up at Norman Manley School demanding to see my wife. Fortunately she had resigned her position shortly before the campaign got hot because the school is located at what at the time was a constituency represented by D.K. Duncan.

Now I don't think that Mr. Manley or the PNP party secretariat instructed those women to go on a mission of murder. But the reality is that had they found my wife, the fact that they were not carrying instructions from PNP headquarters would not have made any difference.

Mr. Golding's claim to have investigated the incident is utter rubbish unless he has investigated all the militant JLP activists who are equivalent of the women who went to Norman Manley School.

Who knows if any statement in party circles (about my writings) equivalent to Mr. Manley's Sam Sharpe speech might be linked both to the letters and to the fire bombing incident?

Very curious

The link with the JLP remains a mere hypothesis until concrete evidence establishes the authorship of both the letters and the fire. But until then it would be foolish of both Mr. Charles and Mr. Golding to expect us to ignore that hypothesis and the suggestive evidence that it rests on.

I find it curious that both Mr. Golding and Mr. Charles are impressed with the hypothesis that some third party attempted the fire to cast blame on the JLP. A number of persons believe that the JLP started the KPH fires to cast blame

on leftists and the PNP. The reason for that accusation getting such wide currency is that almost before the fires stopped burning JLP spokesmen were pointing accusing fingers at the PNP in an evident effort to score propaganda points.

No organisation or party has tried to score any propaganda points against the JLP over the fire bombing of my office. To date the Gleaner editorial which condemned the attack has been the only comment on the incident in the Gleaner apart from my column in the JLP letters.

It is not credible that third parties would go to all that trouble to burn down my office or to dump garbage at the Council of Churches office and not follow through by trying to score propaganda points. The basis of that hypothesis is therefore quite tenuous. But it is obviously self-serving from the JLP's standpoint and we ought not to be surprised that they hang on to it.

Deeper issue

But there is a deeper issue here. Had I been a columnist operating in Canada or the U.S., the fire bombing of my UWI academic office would have been made by the media into a national issue. Here in Jamaica we don't make a fuss about people's rights being violated because we fear to stand up and be counted and because we respond mainly when our interests are threatened.

No organisation is therefore likely to risk such a venture when the propaganda gains are marginal.

The attempt at burning down my office had nothing to do with any burglary intent. Any infant could break into those offices in 15 min-

utes. The glass windows cracked from the intensity of the fire's heat and not from any attempt to break in. A large quantity of inflammable liquid was thrown on the door. There was so much of it that it spilled over to the first floor and also on the grass downstairs. The arsonists apparently allowed the liquid to dry out before lighting it and this accounts for the fact that the fire burnt itself out. But for that error the entire Social Sciences block might have been gutted.

We understand the JLP's desire to exonerate itself from responsibility, particularly since the letters Hearne and myself have been receiving point in that direction. Neither Charles nor Golding, however, chose to address the major issue of my column which had to do with the climate of fear that casts a shadow over our political system at this time. Hearne's anxieties over releasing one of the letters bear this out quite clearly. Why are Charles and Golding so silent on this issue of the climate of fear?

My column was primarily about harassment in all its forms. The last letter I received started with the line "Carl Stone you chat too much. You are doing too much damage to this country. What you sow you will reap".

In my view, these anxious denials from the JLP are likely to convince even more people that the JLP has something to hide. Sometimes silence is very prudent.

If it makes them feel any better, let me state publicly that I don't believe that Ministers Charles or Golding had anything to do with either the letters or the fire. But we cannot nevertheless close the file on the possible JLP connection.

JAMAICA

SECURITY FORCES DESTROY 30 AIRSTRIPS IN PAST 2 MONTHS

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 28 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] Over 30 airstrips have been "blown up" by the security forces in the last two months, according to the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon Pearnel Charles.

Only on Monday last, the Police destroyed a 3/4 mile-long airstrip being constructed on Alpart's property at Comfort in St Elizabeth. No one was held in connection with this incident.

The security forces have been experiencing a problem with the illegal airstrips because as soon as these are demolished their owners rebuild them.

Regulations seeking to increase fines and to confiscate aircraft under the Civil Aviation Act were completed and would shortly be brought before Parliament for approval, Mr Charles said.

Fourteen provisional aerodrome licences have been granted to private owners and operators of airstrips by the Government since the amendment of the Civil Aviation Act.

The 14 airstrips are: Duckenfield (Mafoota), Unity, Worthy Park, Punch Bowl, Caymanas, Puerto Seco, Frome, Raheen (Appleton), Ewarton, Kirkvine, Port Esquivel, Tulloch (St Catherine), Brumdec, and Desnoes and Geddes Sports Field (helicopter landing).

In addition, licences have been issued to the Customs aerodromes for public use such as the Norman Manley International and Donald Sangster International Airports. Civil aerodromes temporarily assigned as "military aerodromes" which have also been given licences are: Boscobel, Tinson Pen, Ken Jones and Negril.

The Minister did not release any figure as to the number of applications which were turned down.

"All other airstrips are operating illegally," Mr Charles said, adding that where the illegal runways have been destroyed some were soon to be rebuilt by their owners but that the punitive fines would shortly be in force to frustrate the violaters.

Mr Charles says that the illegal airstrips were used not only for ganja trafficking but also the illegal importation of rabies-infested dogs and other contrabands.

He said recently that the smuggling of ganja was a serious threat to law and order to the security of the country and to the future of the children and the island.

The Civil Aviation Act provides for illegal plane pilots appearing before a Resident Magistrate's Court to be fined up to \$20,000 and/or three years for illegal landing or illegal entry and to be gaoled for up to five years. In the case of the Circuit Court, the offender will be fined up to \$100,000 or up to three times the value of the aircraft, its engines, accessories and equipment, whichever is greater.

CSO: 3298/958

JAMAICA

PRIEST ACCUSES TROOPS OF HARASSING GHETTO POOR

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 18 Aug 85 p 24

[Article by Michelle Joseph]

[Text] A TRINIDADIAN priest now working among the poor in Jamaica is worried about the credibility of the armed forces in that country.

Father Gregory Ramkissoon has good cause to be concerned since he was arrested last July 26 on charges of assault and obstruction during a raid on a site of one of the projects of the Brothers of the Poor, an order which Fr. Ramkissoon helped found.

In an account of the incident which aroused national interest, Fr. Ramkissoon said three soldiers and one policeman harassed workers in the depressed White Wing area in Western Kingston.

He reported that the armed officers prodded two of the volunteers on a sanitary work project with a gun. He demanded that they be charged, not threatened. The men then turned on this Roman Catholic priest with obscenities to which he objected because of the presence of women and children. When Fr. Ramkissoon threatened to report them, he was arrested.

At Hunt Bay Police Station detective quarters, the priest was verbally abused. During all of this he was not allowed to talk. Downstairs, his possessions were taken into custody in preparation for being jailed. Police he said, refused him both bail and a telephone call.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fortunately, though someone had called the Jamaican Archbishop who convinced the station superintendent to grant bail at \$50 (J).

On Monday last the case was dismissed when, after investigations, the Police offered no evidence at the trial.

This is only one of the three incidents since July 26, and Fr. Ramkissoon has heard speculation that the attacks are politically motivated. If people help themselves with community work, he said, they drift away from politics, and their dependence on favours from Kingston politicians.

"The more they are harassed, the less they think the church can help them," he said.

Since his arrest two of the three soldiers who prompted his arrest returned to harass workers. An investigation by their superiors is now underway but Fr. Ramkissoon suspects its power to restrain members of the armed forces.

Many people, he said, have called him in the past month to relate similar incidents with the armed forces. "If even when I make a complaint they came back, you can imagine what will happen to a poor man," he said.

Fr. Ramkissoon, who was in Trinidad recently to seek financial help for the poor in Jamaica, wished to thank Trinidadians for their help and concern since "things are getting very difficult (in Jamaica)."

JAMAICA

POLICE CALLED TO QUELL FOOD STAMP DISTURBANCE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

OLD HARBOUR, S.C., July 29
(From our correspondent):

Fights broke out and police had to be summoned to keep order as hundreds of mothers with young children swarmed centres in Spanish Town to register under the special Food Aid Registration Campaign begun in St. Catherine today.

Police from the Mobile Reserve had to be summoned to the Homestead Primary School where several fights broke out during the day. One policeman was reportedly boxed by a woman. Policemen from the Spanish Town Station were called to the St. Jago Health Centre in Spanish Town.

Up to 6 p.m. hundreds of women, many with crying children, were still waiting at the St. Jago Centre for registration and food stamps.

Doctor in charge of the parish, Dr. Marilyn Reid, was not available for comment but was reported to have earlier visited the centres.

The programme is for pregnant and nursing mothers as well as children three years and under. Nurses checked the age, health and weight of the children before they received their food stamps from representatives of the Ministry of Social Security.

When this correspondent visited the St. Jago Health Centre shortly before 6 p.m. two policemen, an inspector and a sergeant, were on duty. They were in a small room packed with about 40 people waiting to be attended by six officers of the Social Security Ministry. A line about six chains long stretched from the building.

The room had one window and two doors, both of which were jammed with people. The room was hot, the situation confusing and babies were everywhere crying. Four babies fainted and had to be given medical attention while their mothers waited for attention.

Mothers complained that they could not leave unless they got their food stamps. Many said they were at the centre from as early as 5 a.m. One obviously frustrated mother said "mi nuh want no more free issue."

At Central Village, the situation was calm with some 444 people being registered. These included pregnant women, lactating mothers and children.

The programme is to be extended to 26 health centres throughout the parish.

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

TEACHERS' WAGES--The island's teachers yesterday rejected government's 10 percent wage offer but decided to end their protest action of non-registration and will begin registering students for the new school year immediately, "in the national interest." The offer by government was described as a "mockery," "insulting" and "offensive" by members and the Jamaica Teachers Association leadership who criticized government's handling of the 16-point wage claim. The decisions were reached yesterday at the 21st annual conference of the JTA at the Wyndham Hotel, New Kingston. The JTA represents 80 percent of the island's 20,000 teachers. In an emotionally charged session yesterday evening the teachers voted overwhelmingly to reject the offer but to take the issue to the country and to wage a "long struggle" for their claim. They said that in the interest of the nation's children and education in general and so as not to jeopardise their support with the public they would go ahead, even without the salary issue being resolved, and register students for the new school year beginning in less than 2 weeks. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Aug 85 pp 1, 3]

MANLEY CALL FOR ELECTIONS--Former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley says his People's National Party has emerged stronger than ever from its 1980 defeat. Speaking in public yesterday for the first time since undergoing surgery in April, Mr Manley said general elections should be held to return Jamaica to a normal path. Mr Manley's party lost to Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labor Party in 1980. Prime Minister Seaga says he intends to fill the full 5-year term he won when Mr Manley's party boycotted the 1983 snap elections. [Text] [Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Sep 85 FL]

STONE POLLS HIT JLP--Kingston, 2 Sep--The majority of Jamaicans rated the performance of the ruling Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) as poor in a public opinion poll published here at the weekend. The respected Carl Stone Poll published in the GLEANER newspaper showed 55 percent of Kingston citizens rated the JLP poorly, while 53 percent in rural parishes rated the JLP's performance the same way. In Kingston, 59 percent rated Prime Minister Edward Seaga's performance poorly, while 50 percent in the rural parishes shared that view. According to the poll, economic and social pressures were the main reasons given for the view held on Seaga and the JLP. Meanwhile, another Stone Poll showed 57 percent of Kingston citizens and 55 percent of those in rural areas against government's measures aimed at restraining trade unions. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2133 GMT 2 Sep 85 FL] A majority of Jamaicans

favour a change of government at this time, according to an opinion poll published today. The poll, conducted by Carl Stone and of a series published in the GLEANER this week, revealed that of Kingston residents, 55 percent wanted a change while 60 percent in rural parishes support that view. In Kingston, 42 percent said that citizens ought to be more patient and give the government policies time to work, while 38 percent in rural parishes supported that view. The poll was conducted between 25 and 31 July and involved 1,102 persons from 54 areas. The findings reflect the unpopularity of the austere economic policies of the conservative Edward Seaga government. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 6 Sep 85 FL]

BLAME FOR TRADE DEFICIT--Kingston, 2 Sep--The opposition People's National Party (PNP) has blamed the Jamaica Government for the increase in the country's trade deficit in the first 5 months of the year. PNP spokesman on finance Seymour Mullings said in a statement that the deterioration in Jamaica's trade performance was due to the erratic and inconsistent policy measures of the government. Official figures put the trade deficit at US\$215 million in the first 5 months of the year. The PNP cited figures for 1977, 1978, and 1980 to show that during that time the deficit moved from U.S.23 million to U.S.132 million. The performance this year, in comparison to last year, showed the government had lost control over foreign exchange management---if it had any at all, the PNP added. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2009 GMT 2 Sep 85 FL]

AIR ACCORD WITH CANADA--Kingston, 23 Aug--Jamaica and Canada have negotiated a revised bilateral air transport agreement, the Canadian High Commission said. The High Commission said the main elements of the agreement include new traffic rights for the Jamaican designated carrier to any one point in Canada west of Ontario via up to three points in the United States. Jamaica is the second Caribbean country to obtain scheduled air traffic rights in western Canada, the High Commission noted. The first was Barbados under an agreement negotiated earlier this year. Jamaica has also obtained additional traffic rights at intermediate points in the eastern United States on services to Montreal. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2111 GMT 23 Aug 85 FL]

SUGAR SHORTFALL--Kingston, 5 Sep--Jamaica's sugar production for 1986 is expected to fall below projected levels because of a lack of financing for plant refurbishing and the effects of a severe drought, All-Island Cane Farmers Association (AICFA) chairman T. G. Mignot says. Speaking at a Rotary Club luncheon in Kingston, he said that the industry was having a serious financial problem. Mignot gave no figures on the projected production shortfall but last month he said the industry will fail to reach its target of 210,000 tons by 4,000 tons. He called for the establishment of an independent board to run the industry and accused government of imposing political structures and demands which affect the growth of the industry. Mignot said that the industry earns US\$71 million per year, yet finds it difficult to get foreign exchange to replace parts for factories and equipment. Mignot warned that the industry could lose its quota to the European Economic Community (EEC) if action is not taken to assist the industry now. [Excerpts] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2211 GMT 5 Sep 85 FL]

4 October 1985

WPJ PRIORITIES--General Secretary of the Workers Party of Jamaica, Dr Trevor Munroe, has said that the priority now by any government which has the well-being of the Jamaican people at heart should be the maintenance of the number of teachers, nurses and doctors in the government service. This priority should include an "improved salary offer" in order to ensure that the sectors of health and education did not collapse, according to Dr Munroe who was addressing a WPJ meeting in Lucea, Hanover, on Monday. He said that the Government should also ensure improvement of working conditions for the existing rank and file members of the security forces rather than having the current massive intake of Jamaica Defence Force recruits. Dr Munroe pointed to what he described as the contradiction in Government policy, whereby it was currently building up the JDF more than any government in the past 20 years, while at the same time laying off thousands of professionals. He said that over 400 new JDF recruits were being taken in special batches of 200 each when the normal intake was 80. [Text] Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Aug 85 p 16]

TRAVEL PACT WITH PERU--Air Jamaica and Aero Peru have again entered into another agreement for the island's carrier to transport passengers to destinations in the United States from Montego Bay. Under the agreement, with effect from July 19, Aero Peru will transport passengers to Montego Bay where they will be taken up. Previously, Aero Peru operated between Lima and Kingston. Aero Peru earlier this year severed its agreement with Air Jamaica and opted for Panama because the runway at the Norman Manley International Airport was closed at nights, the time which Peru's national airlines flies, according to Mr Tom Scarlett, Air Jamaica's Director of Passenger Services. Peru was still unable to forge a bilateral air transport agreement between itself and the United States, he said, as a result of a breakdown of talks. Air Jamaica would be carrying 75 Peruvian passengers a day and this would not affect its passengers, he said. In the past passengers without reservations were peeved that they could not get any seats because of the Air Peru accord. Mr Scarlett said that the return of Aero Peru which would be taking passengers to New York, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia, would generate additional revenue. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jul 85 p 3]

S. KOREAN INVESTMENT--Jamaica is to embark on a drive aimed at attracting business investment from South Korea to help develop bilateral economic cooperation, said the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon Oswald Harding, Senator Harding, who was speaking at a dinner he hosted in honour of Korean Presidential Envoy, Mr Sek Jik Park, at the Terra Nova Hotel Thursday night, said that through the facilities of the CBI Programme Jamaica could seek to attract direct South Korean investment. Jamaica could also learn a lot from this technologically developed country, Mr Harding said. Responding to the toast proposed in his honour, Mr Park lauded Jamaica's firm support to South Korea, citing in particular the key role Jamaica has played in supporting direct dialogue between North and South Korea. He reaffirmed South Korea's commitment to strengthening economic cooperation with Jamaica. Also present was Minister of National Security and Justice, the Hon Winston Spaulding, who expressed the gratitude of the Jamaican Government for the recent South Korean gift of jeeps to the local Police Force. Mr Park left the island on Saturday afternoon. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Aug 85 p 11]

4 October 1985

TWIN-PLANT SUPPORT--Kingston, Thurs, (AP)--Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga has again endorsed a proposal started by Puerto Rico, called the twin-plant programme. Seaga made the statement at the opening of a twin-plant seminar in Kingston, a Jamaica Information Service Report said. Gov Rafael Hernandez Colon has proposed the programme, in an attempt to keep a Federal tax benefit known as 936 in Puerto Rico, a US Commonwealth. Hernandez Colon said those earnings could be used to finance the Puerto Rican part of a twin-plant operation involving Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands. US companies would finance the other part of such transactions outside of Puerto Rico. Hernandez Colon said he also felt such a programme would help US President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative. (CBI) [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Aug 85 p 5]

CSO: 3298/958

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

PAM/NRP GOVERNMENT FORCED TO CLEAN UP LABOUR 'MESS'

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 27 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

A feverish but futile effort by the Opposition Labour members in the National Assembly to quarrel with Government's comprehensive developmental thrust was this week exposed by the members on the Government Benches as a short-sighted and completely off-target cry from the past. The PAM/NRP Government which has replaced a Labour Government bankrupt of ideas, and ill-equipped to meet the challenges of our time, has increased Government expenditure to levels not imagined by Labour. BUT THE RETURNS FROM THE EXPENDITURE ARE THERE TO SHOW FOR IT! PAM/NRP is to be congratulated for not being content to spend, in the 1980's, the same amount of money for Health, Education, Public Utilities, Investment, Social Security Benefits, Youth and Community Development, a New and Improved Ferry Service, Housing, Diversification of Agriculture, Security, and Providing Relief on every level, that had existed in the penny-wise, pound-foolish 1970's.

In the 1970's, the Labour Government benefitted from an unexpected bonanza which brought sugar prices to St. Kitts to the tune of over £600 sterling per ton (when the £ sterling itself was worth much more than it is now). Labour is estimated to have taken from the Sugar Industry the back-breaking Levies and Taxes (almost \$50 Million in the latter half of the 1970's) that have plunged NACO into a spiralling burden of debt. The 1984 Bookers Report on the Sugar Industry states that without this enormous Sugar Levy (extracted by Labour) NACO's Profit and Loss Account would still have been in credit at 31st December 1983. When one considers how Labour BLED THE SUGAR INDUSTRY without making any significant input into the country's infrastructure (it was all still in the pipeline when they were removed from office) it is no wonder that on paper they gave the appearance of having money in hand. The truth is they were not meeting their commitments: for lands and equipment acquired without compensation, for economic costs owed to UWI so far in arrears that UWI had decided to close its doors to our

undergraduate students. This Government met a lot of mess which it has had to clean up. Prime Minister Simmonds, the Hon. Hugh Heyliger, and the other Government speakers, led the way in rapping the Opposition members on the knuckles for their lies and their misrepresentation concerning this Government's manful thrust into the 80's against Labour's background of stagnation, excessive taxation and mismanagement. The Government members drove home the point that PAM/NRP is developing our human resources like never before, while meeting our commitments like never before, AND INCREAS-
ING THE ASSETS OF THE COUNTRY LIKE NEVER BEFORE!!!!!!!!!!!!

It is interesting to note that in this Session of the National Assembly, Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Charles Mills, admitted for the first time, that Labour Government Ministers including himself had taken more than one salary.

CSO: 3298/972

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

BRIEFS

CANECUTTERS' BONUS--Almost 1,200 registered canecutters yesterday received over \$90,000 extra for their speedy cutting down of the 1985 Sugar Crop. The total payment of \$91,962.00 represents an incentive bonus of \$1.00 per ton to the 1,200 cutters on the Field Staff of the National Agricultural Corporation (NACO). The Windfall is an increase of over the agreed standard rate per ton. The end of the 1985 Sugar Harvest was announced earlier this month, some weeks before the deadline set by Management. A Spokesman for NACO said yesterday that the extra \$91,000-plus has nothing to do with the 1985 End of Crop Bonus, which will still be paid as agreed in due course. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 29 Jun 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/972

ST LUCIA

SLP ENDS CONVENTION, SETTLES LEADERSHIP ISSUE

Attack on Compton, UWP

FL271626 Bridgetown CANA in English 1611 GMT 27 Aug 85

[Text] Castries, 27 Aug--Leader of the opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) Julian Hunte has bitterly attacked the policies of Prime Minister John Compton's ruling United Workers Party (UWP), accusing him of offering neither the leadership nor the political will to meet the many challenges facing the country.

Addressing the annual SLP convention over the weekend, Hunte said that this deficiency was strange considering the 14-3 mandate the electorate gave the UWP in the last general elections three years ago.

Hunte painted a sorry picture of the St Lucia economy under the UWP and what he said was the government's failure to accomplish several election promises, resulting in high unemployment, redundancies in both the private and public sectors, increased costs for social services like health, abandonment of an indigenous industrialization programme started by the last SLP administrations and a staggering goods import bill now running at more than EC 100 million dollars (one EC dollar : 37 U.S. cents) annually.

He said the SLP believed in a mixed economy as being the way forward. But for the private sector to play its role, particularly that of job creation, a new direction must be taken in the area of diversification.

Hunte explained that there had to be import substitution and replacement in agriculture, manufacturing, and industry, greater use had to be made of St Lucia's own raw materials, and agro industries and small businesses had to be developed.

In the private sector, too, the SLP leader said, there was need for more positive assistance by the government, particularly in regard to incentives.

Hunte expressed concern with recent downward trends in intra-regional trade, particularly as it related to access to larger markets such as Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Guyana. He said: In our view, unless there is a reappraisal of the situation, protectionist policies will inevitably bring a halt to our integration movement.

He urged that the trade payments mechanism, the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), be restored to its former levels as a matter of urgency, adding: We accept that this will not be an easy task, and our understanding of each other's problems, a solution can and must be found. [as received]

Of the SLP itself, Hunte said that the problems which had plagued the 31-year-old organization in recent years resulting in its ignominious defeat at the polls in 1982 are now behind us.

He said: We have been picking up the pieces and it is clear to everyone who can see well enough that the SLP is once again on the road to victory. Those who saw us as being dead after the last election and had pronounced our burial are now not only surprised, but also worried that we are once again bubbling with so much life.

It was in this light, Hunte said, that minority opposition Progressive Labour Party (PLP) leader George Odlum had been calling for an accommodation with the SLP to fight the next elections, a request that the SLP has rejected.

Rejection of PLP

FL301752 Bridgetown CANA in English 1624 GMT 30 Aug 85

[By Guy Ellis]

[Excerpts] Castries, 30 Aug--The opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) has emerged from its annual convention looking rejuvenated after a crushing electoral defeat three years ago.

And despite concern about the strength of the ruling party, it shrugged off calls for an electoral pact with a party launched by SLP dissidents.

With little hope of single-handedly defeating the UWP, the PLP, headed by former Deputy Prime Minister George Odlum, has been promoting the idea of a united opposition front for the next general election. But the mood at the recent convention was hostile to the idea, with speaker after speaker opposing any such dialogue with Odlum.

Many in the SLP hold Odlum responsible for the party's January 1982 fall from power two years before its term of office was to expire and under public pressure.

Odlum for several months had fought bitterly for control of the party, accusing then Prime Minister Allan Louisy of turning his back on an agreement that would have put the leftist politician in control of the government.

Some SLP officials, including the incoming Chairman Thomas Walcott, threatened to leave the party if it made a deal with Odlum.

Odlum was not only accused of working with Compton to bring down the SLP government but was castigated as well for joining hands with the UWP in a parliamentary vote which saw the defeat of the SLP's 1981 fiscal budget.

Three-and-a-half years after the SLP was forced out of office, many of the party faithful want to see Odlum humiliated further. This was clearly reflected in the decision of the central executive that those who had deserted the SLP in the years during and following the upheaval in the party were now welcome to seek new membership.

Hunte said that such applications would be treated in the usual manner. But he added that the delegates had expressed the view that they would prefer not to have to receive certain applications.

In the face of the view that has been gaining currency here--it has been mentioned by both Odlum and former SLP leader Peter Josie--that neither opposition party on its own would be able to unseat the UWP, the convention urged the SLP to press ahead with its own plans for the re-emergence of a strong party that would be able to hold its own in a three-cornered election fight.

This is not expected to be an easy task. Three years ago, the SLP fared badly in such a situation, amassing a mere 16 percent of the popular vote to 26 percent by the PLP. No fewer than nine of the SLP's 17 candidates failed to win 10 percent of the votes cast in their constituencies. But apart from the pair of seats won, the SLP made good showings in four other constituencies.

One of the major challenges facing the party, however, must be its standing in the electorate in the six seats that make up the country's capital.

Altogether there are five districts islandwide that have not been held by the SLP in the five general elections over the past 20 years.

As the areas where the SLP's deeds and misdeeds attracted the most public attention, Castries voters gave the six SLP candidates altogether less than 1,000 of the 21,226 votes cast in 1982.

But the SLP leadership is not daunted. In the past 18 months, officials have been working to rebuild and reunite the party all-round.

Hunte said constituency groups, the only means to ensure the overall success of the party, had been organized and were once again actively involved in promoting the work of the party.

With his re-election unopposed for a second term, Hunte said the convention had further consolidated the SLP leadership. I am pleased to reiterate that the leadership struggle has been put to rest and stability has returned to our party, he told the delegates.

The SLP's immediate agenda includes reactivation of the party machinery, the selection of 17 candidates--Hunte stressed that if an election were called tomorrow the SLP would be in a position to field a full and capable slate--and the preparation of a social and economic policy to take to the country, adding that the party did not intend to wait until an election was called to sell its programme to the electorate.

ST LUCIA

ODLUM BLAMES HUNTE FOR SLP REJECTION OF OPPOSITION UNITY

FL042348 Bridgetown CANA in English 2118 GMT 4 Sep 85

[Text] Castries, 4 Sep--Two key opposition political figures have clashed over the question of forming a unified front to oppose the government in the next general elections in St Lucia.

Progressive Labour Party (PLP) leader George Odlum has strongly denounced rejections of overtures for accommodation which he made to the official opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP).

But Odlum stopped short of blaming the SLP as a whole and levelled his criticisms squarely against its leader, Julian Hunte. He accused Hunte of entrenching divisions in the SLP and cited statements by two senior SLP officials, secretary Hilary Modeste and former leader Peter Josie, calling for dialogue among opposition forces here.

Odlum said Modeste's and Josie's position, coming after Hunte declared he had a full slate of candidates for the next elections, demonstrated a difference of opinion in the leadership of the SLP.

The SLP convention at the end of August rejected PLP's overtures for accommodation, but Odlum said the question of dialogue was not debated, aired, voted upon, or understood by the convention floor.

Odlum described the resolution which went before the convention as being deceptive, in that it rejected dialogue and association with non-democratic parties. By no stretch of the imagination could the PLP be described as a non-democratic party, he declared.

He described the party as mass based, and the one organisation in St. Lucia with the most direct link with the masses.

Odlum again emphasised the need for opposition unity in St Lucia, declaring that any three-cornered fight would militate against the general wish among all classes to remove the (John) Compton government from office.

CSO: 3298/998

ST LUCIA

TEXT OF ODLUM ADDRESS TO HAVANA DEBT CONFERENCE

Castries CRUSADER in English 10 Aug 85 p 8

[Text of speech by St Lucia PLP leader George Odium at Havana conference on the Latin American debt situation; date not specified]

[Text]

COMRADE PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO
MR. CHAIRMAN
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN
STRUGGLE

It is difficult to ignore the cyclical nature of human history, characterised by periods of intense gloom and spiritual darkness and suddenly there is a burst of light, a beacon of hope. Such a burst of light illumined the Moncada Barracks and brought new hope to the people of Cuba.

Today there is a blinding flash of light which illumines the darkness which envelopes the people of the Third World, in their search for a path of development which would lead them out of the hopeless frustration of International Debt Payments. Where there is no vision, the people perish. This Conference is the brain-child of the distinguished President of the Cuban people who has lit a torch of freedom and liberation for all the desperate and forlorn people of Latin America and the Caribbean who could see no way around the intractable problems of Debt Servicing linked with the crippling phenomenon of constantly declining terms of trade.

Within the context of the English-speaking Caribbean with its peculiar problems of size and viability, the contradictions are even more stark. Our frail export trade is

geared to the United Kingdom market and therefore susceptible to the rapid fluctuations of sterling in the International Currency Market. Our own foreign exchange transactions are dictated by the commercial activities of Multinational Corporations and local and foreign businessmen. Our Annual Budget exercises are predicated not on any real growth in the G.N.P., not on any meaningful development of goods and services, but on a Capital Budget based on Loans from International and Regional Institutions, grants from friendly Governments and gifts from self-interested Multinationals.

This hopeless situation has reduced the Governments of the Eastern Caribbean to helpless onlookers merely observing the declining economic fortunes of their respective countries. Despite the operation of an East Caribbean Currency Authority, there is no regional control of currencies and no serious monitoring of the operations of commercial banks in the area. The banking sector is dominated by Overseas Commercial Banks with their Head Offices in Western metropolitan countries and in St. Lucia the Government suffers the humiliation of making monthly trips to the Commercial Banks begging for money to pay the wages bill in the Public Sector. The circulation of money in the National Economy seems to

be influenced more by the foreign exchange transactions of speculators, traders and drugs pushers, than by direct Government spending.

Against this grim background of a financial sector no longer in the control of the Government, the World Bank has already made its pronouncement in a document released in June 1985 that St. Lucia is not credit-worthy because of the high level of debt-servicing and expenditure, against a rapidly reducing level of revenues. There is little surprise in the fact that revenues are declining, because the level of unemployment has reached scandalous proportions. Given the adjustments to be made in subsistence economies for factors such as UNDER-EMPLOYMENT* DISGUISED EMPLOYMENT and WORK-SHARING, a realistic estimate of the employment situation would reveal that almost half of the work force in St. Lucia is out of work and among the youth the level of unemployment runs at 65 percent unemployed.

Comrade President, this is not a tale of woe, nor is it a litany of our indigence. It is simply a vivid representation of the vicious spiral of hopelessness, poverty and lack of vision which the people of the Eastern Caribbean have found themselves in under the aegis of a leadership which sees its destiny in being pack-horses for Imperialism.

Our people are poor illiterate victims of a disastrous colonial heritage. Our leaders are misguided by-products of a psychology of dependence. They are fully prepared to take our people along the course of looking the gift-horses in the mouth even when it is obvious that the gift-horses are bent on exploitation, plunder, military subjugation. The people of the Caribbean, in all their poverty and degradation must live with the additional shame of having leaders who at the time of the Grenada Invasion, sacrificed the human dignity and the International Sovereignty of a people on the altar of expediency. They sold their birthright for

a proverbial "mess of pottage"

As unrelated as it seems, the decision to endorse and facilitate the American Invasion of Grenada, is a direct consequence of the psychology of dependence which is nurtured by the International Debt Situation. This nexus between economic dependence and political and social emancipation is sometimes overlooked. The total impact of crippling and escalating interest rates is not always appreciated by analysts. The social effect of International Debt and I.M.F. conditionality of the quality of life of ordinary people in Latin America and the Caribbean is easily demonstrable but the total impact on the psyche of the Latin American peasantry and the leadership spectrum is not as clear.

It is important that this historic gathering appreciates the dull amplitude of the exercise which is being undertaken here today. We have not gathered here to stick a thumb of protest at the International Financial Institutions. We are not here as a simple gesture of defiance. We are here to correct an imbalance in the International Economic Order which History and the Capitalist Ethic nurtured and entrenched. We are not here to escape the responsibility of economic viability. WE ARE HERE to break the bottlenecks which impede our economic advancement and viability.

We are not here simply to undermine the ethical basis of traditional banking institutions. We are here to inject the positives of EQUITY and JUSTICE into the ethical relationships which underpin International Finance. Most of us have listened painfully to the still sad music of a dispossessed Latin American and Caribbean peasantry. We have heard the rattle of the dry bones of our sick and dying.

We have inhaled the stench of racism and class bias and watched the pathos of our brothers and sisters that writhe under the scourge of Apartheid in South Africa. We have empathised with the heroism of the Sandinistas and the monumental sacrifice of the people of Nicaragua. We have agonised over the manipulation and destruction of the Grenada Revolution and we have watched almost helplessly as the Caribbean and Latin America has been quietly transformed into a theatre of war with a militarisation which is funded by the immorality of International Usury.

At this very point in time, the Eastern Caribbean will be the venue for a military exercise staged by the AMERICANS and the their Eastern Caribbean puppets code-named EXOTIC PALM. The palm is a symbol of peace and the very choice of name - EXOTIC PALM - tells us something of the cynicism and sickness of the Pentagon. If under the previous American Administration the policies were benign, under this regime they are certainly malignant. A Roman writer once wrote:

LEGES SILENT INTER ARMAS

Laws are silent amid the clash of arms. If the objective behind the militarisation is to threaten and terrorise our people and to render our laws silent, then our people must heed the clarion-call of liberation. The first law which must be silenced must be the International Law of Exploitation which funnels the slim resources of the Third World into pockets which finance the decadence and war-mongering of Imperialists.

Comrade President, I applaud the quality of your initiative. It is a bold imaginative step geared at mobilising the Trade Union of the Poor to restore some balance, some equilibrium to a disjointed and

unjust World Order. I implore you to resist the temptation to structure this initiative in a way which would rob it of its bold conception and take the Third World bound hand-and-foot around Council Tables of organised hypocrisy and duplicity. You have taken great pains to invite the Trade Unions, the Intellectuals, the Politicians, the Churchmen and prominent personalities in the Hemisphere. YOU are the catalyst. Now it is left to every one of us here to provide the chemical reaction. We must leave, fired with the spirit of liberation and move immediately to translate the language of the Financial Institutions into homespun dialects of our people. We must translate the Debt into the grim reality of our peoples lives. We must bring Bretton Woods to the favelas of Rio and prepare their slingshots to fend off the Goliaths of Finance. Africa will follow. The Non-aligned will follow if Latin America and the Caribbean can storm the Moncada.

Only then will we be able to say:

LONG LIVE THE CUBAN REVOLUTION..
LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE OF LATIN
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.....

CSO: 3298/998

ST LUCIA

COMPTON ASKS PARLIAMENT OK TO BORROW \$19 MILLION LOCALLY

Castries THE VOICE in English 14 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] PRIME Minister and Minister of Finance, John Compton sought parliament's approval yesterday to borrow \$19 million to pay government debts.

He said the money would be solicited from commercial banks here and would be paid to creditors as a condition to get a number of development programmes going.

At the time of writing this report the Prime Minister's motion was still being debated but it was sure to be approved despite a fierce opposition from parliamentarian, Jon Odum of the Progressive Labour party (PLP).

Compton told the House that the loan sought to amalgamate a number of current government obligations. He said government owed over \$14 million to foreign creditors and over \$10 million locally, and that a number of funding agencies such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) had indicated that debts owed must be paid as a precondition to assist government in implementing water projects around the island.

The Prime Minister blamed what he called the high salary offers and the "payola" and "excesses" of previous administrations for the island's debts but emphasized that government was committed to meeting these obligations.

Odum, who attacked the Prime Minister's motion as a criminal act which would "mortgage our children's future," said specific and significant details were absent from the motion and he wanted to know the terms and conditions of such a loan. The Castries South representative charged that the Prime Minister brought with him a "litany of woes" every time he came to the House. He said Compton was always blaming the ill-fated Labour Government for St. Lucia's problems saying that the present administration was always boasting of having the confidence of the people.

Odum said that "confidence" had not materialised since the elections of 1982 and that St. Lucians were suffering now more than ever. He then carried on all members of the House to vote against the motion.

ST LUCIA

GOVERNMENT SALARY HIKES BRING OBJECTIONS FROM LABOUR PARTY

Castries CRUSADER in English 17 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

Despite repeated statements by the Prime Minister in his budget addresses over the last three years to the effect that the extravagant salary increases awarded to public servants by the Labour Party Administration in 1982 is responsible for the financial problems being experienced by his government, certain parliamentarians including three of his Ministers have now recommended overall increases for themselves in excess of awards to public servants resulting from negotiations.

It is recalled that shortly after the 1982 General Elections Prime Minister Compton announced that as an expression of self-restraint he and his Ministers would not seek any salary increase. It was also said that Ministers would accept a 10 percent reduction in salary. The Prime Minister also urged all trade unions to limit their wage demands to 10 percent. The Civil Service Association did better than was asked, and settled for an average annual increase of 7 percent. Other trade unions also exercised restraint and today their leaders have concluded wage agreements in the spirit of the Prime Minister's calls for restraint. These agreements are for two or three years and subject to review or renegotiation in 1987 or 1988 i.e. after the next general elections, constitutionally due to be held in 1987. Of course elections can be held much earlier if Prime Minister Compton wishes to have them at any time a time when the vast majority of wage agreements are still in force. The strategy is clear. Trade disputes must be minimal at election time.

Having received the cooperation of trade unions in wage demand restraint what do we find? The Prime Minister, his Ministers and their interim councils at local authority level have imposed significant increases in several areas, e.g. house tax, consumption tax, hospital fees, drivers and vehicles licences and others. These tax measures directly or indirectly increase the cost-of-living and obviously could not have been taken into account when wage increases were being negotiated.

With wage demands settled for the next two or three years and oppressive taxes inflicted on the people, the people's elected representatives now proceed to make things better for themselves not with the restraint preached by Prime Minister Compton but to the same and even greater extent than that which he continues to say was extravagant.

Voice 14th August 1985 P.M. Seeks to borrow \$19m. from Local Banks even down to payment by Government bonds. OF COURSE PAYMENT BY BONDS IS NO LONGER A HAZARD BECAUSE THE SOURCE OF FUNDING THEIR REDEMPTION IS 19M. TO BE BORROWED.

The salary of the Prime Minister, the Ministers, Speaker and Parliamentary Secretaries will not only be increased by the same so-called extravagant percentage as applied to public servants but the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition are recommended to receive the same salary as a Minister of State. This is

proposed as an adjustment pro tem. These officers will also be paid a higher entertainment allowance than the Minister of State. The entertainment allowance to the Prime Minister is to be increased to \$18,000 and travel allowance to \$16,800 with a duty allowance (whatever that may mean) of \$6,000, the Prime Minister's non-taxable allowances total \$40,800 per year, and will be subject to review every three years. This is an automatic review and no demand is required. The non-taxable allowances to a minister is \$31,200 per year.

The salary of the Prime Minister will be \$66,000 and the Minister \$54,000 per year.

But that is not all the proposed increases.

There are other increases recommended and which include the payment of gratuity to the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition who served for a period of not less than four years, and a retiring monthly allowance of one half of the highest salary received by a member of either House who has served two legislative terms or for a period of not less than eight years. To receive a retiring monthly allowance of one half salary a public servant is required to work for a continuous period of 26 to 27 years.

From the above one sees that not only have parliamentarians recommend for themselves the same salary increases which the Prime Minister has repeatedly termed extravagant but have gone further to increase non-taxable allowances to the tune of \$40,800 for the Prime Minister, \$31,200 for a minister and \$20,400 for the Speaker and the Leader of Opposition per year.

IS RESTRAINT ONLY FOR TRADE
UNIONS?

CSO: 3298/998

ST LUCIA

WEST GERMANY GIVING \$75,000 FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Castries THE VOICE in English 14 Aug 85 p 2

[Text] THE Federal Republic of Germany is to provide about \$75,000 to finance a number of community projects here. The money — the largest amount to be released at one time by that government — will be supplied under the German Appropriate Technology Exchange (GATE) programme and will be transferred to St. Lucia by September.

The agreement already signed between Minister of Community Development, Romanus Lansiquot and West German Consul, David Gorman will provide for the construction of laundry, toilet and washing units at Au Leon and renovations to similar facilities damaged by hurricane at Marchand five years ago.

The balance of the funds will also be used to carry out repair work on public laundry/bath stations in various parts of the island.

The new assistance package is yet another in the series offered by the Germans to relieve community problems here. In recent times funds have been provided to obtain a bus for the Boys Training Centre at Massade;

needlework and laboratory equipment for St. Joseph's Convent; home economics class equipment for the Gros Islet Primary school; video and television equipment for Gros Islet Parish Centre; typewriters for the Benedictine Nuns; and adding machines for the St. Lucia Cooperative League.

The FRG has also offered a number of scholarships in technical areas to locals. Four St. Lucians are currently in Germany and four other scholarship applications are being processed.

CSO: 3298/999

ST LUCIA

BANANA GROWERS HURT BY 21 AUGUST STORM DAMAGE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Aug 85 p 5

[Text]

CASTRIES, Fri., (Cana):

UP TO 15 per cent of Saint Lucia's 1985 banana crop was damaged on Wednesday night, when a freak storm hit the island, industry sources said today. The storm with winds gusting at more than 60 miles per hour (MPH), struck at ten, o'clock after a relatively calm day, and caught residents by surprise.

Banana industry sources said figures on crop losses were not immediately available. The storm would, however, not affect this week's shipment to the United Kingdom, officials said.

Parts of the island, particularly in the north, were without electricity as power lines were downed by fallen trees. There were also several reports of damage to property, but none on loss of life.

The Roseau Cul de Sac plantation, on the north east coast, and plantations in the north were reported to be seriously affected.

CAUGHT OFF GUARD

Senior meteorologist at Hewanorra International Airport, Bruno Lamontagne, said meteorologists were caught off guard. He said it was difficult to forecast tropical waves which produced abnormally high winds with the equipment available.

"We saw here the difference between hurricane winds and a gust of wind carried by a tropical wave. With a hurricane, it can last for several hours, but with Wednesday night's storm it was all over in a matter of minutes, he said.

Electricity workers were on the streets clearing debris and restoring power lines. The Disaster Preparedness Committee has urged citizens to stay on their guards, as the hurricane season is only half-way through.

CSO: 3298/999

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

ITALIANS BUY ARROWROOT; INDUSTRY PROBLEMS PERSIST

Italian Bank Purchase

FL301812 Bridgetown CANA in English 1758 GMT 30 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Kingstown, 30 Aug--St Vincent and the Grenadines has found a buyer for 3.7 million pounds of arrowroot starch that has been stockpiled in warehouses here for the past 2 years, according to Trade, Industry, and Agriculture Minister Marcus Defreitas.

Defreitas announced at the annual general meeting of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Arrowroot Industry Association that Multi Fin SRL, an Italian merchant bank, had signed an agreement with the association earlier this month to purchase the entire stock.

Defreitas said the price negotiated with the Italians was the best the industry had been able to get for a long time and was higher than the current U.S.35 cents a pound being paid for the commodity.

In Georgetown, the Caribbean Community Secretariat said yesterday that a meeting of Caricom agriculture and trade officials next week will consider proposals for the increased marketing of arrowroot within the region. The Caricom Secretariat will suggest what protection the St Vincent and the Grenadines industry must enjoy.

Drop in Output

FL021504 Bridgetown CANA in English 1905 GMT 31 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Kingstown, 31 Aug--Arrowroot production in St Vincent and the Grenadines fell to an all time low of 4,777 barrels (955,400 pounds) for the 1984-85 crop, according to official production figures.

The arrowroot industry association also said its operating losses at its four factories totalled EC281,414 dollars (one EC dollar : 37 cents U.S.) for the year. The industry's net loss amounted to 1.4 million dollars, 798,181 dollars less than 1983-84 losses totalling more than 2.1 million dollars.

Debt Burden, Other Shortcomings

FL022020 Bridgetown CANA in English 1924 GMT 2 Sep 85

[Excerpts] Kingstown, 2 Sep--St Vincent and the Grenadines arrowroot industry is on the verge of bankruptcy with an overall debt burden of over 8.5 million dollars (one EC dollar : 37 cents U.S.), a top official said today.

But according to the acting general manager of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Arrowroot Industry Association, Emmanuel Francis, the industry can still be saved by efficient management, improved yield per acre, a reduction in production costs, and proper marketing.

Francis said the industry had an overdraft of 6.5 million dollars at the state-owned national Commercial Bank (NCB) alone, and up to last month had 3.7 million pounds (18,500 barrels) or approximately three years' production stockpiled in its warehouses here.

He explained that while Brazil was a major producer of corn and cassava starches, it produced only 1,000 barrels of arrowroot starch annually, which was just 20 percent of St Vincents 1984-85 crop of 4,777 barrels, an all-time low.

Francis said the industry's problems were purely local and related to the basis of choice of management, a decline in quality, over-pricing of the product by the association, low yield per acre, and high production costs.

Francis accused the previous administration of the now opposition St Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) of appointing management staff on the basis of political loyalty rather than competence and efficiency. This, he said, resulted in inefficiency of production throughout, decline in the quality of starch produced, and increased cost of production.

Francis believes that once these problems are overcome, the industry would be revived and would once again be in the position to play a vital role in the economy.

CSO: 3298/1000

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PNM LEADERS REACT TO ELECTION CHALLENGE OF NAR

Padmore Warning

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

A GOVERNMENT Minister has charged that opponents of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) are seeking to sever the link between the party and the people and seeking to do so by shattering the confidence of the people in the PNM.

But Mr. Overand Padmore, Minister of National Security, emphasised on Sunday:

"They will never succeed because the people who have been sharing so many amenities understand what our government has done for us and people would not take a chance with division, they would not take a chance with disunity, they would not take a chance with bacchanal, they would not take a chance with uncertainty."

Mr. Padmore, who was speaking at the 25th annual conference of the Port-of-Spain East constituency of the PNM, concentrated a large portion of his address on attacking incidents of "disunity" within the ranks of the Opposition.

He said that peace and good government which Trinidad and Tobago enjoyed since the PNM came into office in 1956 were not by chance.

Dwelling on the recent violation of party directives at Alliance controlled County Councils, Mr. Padmore said that even with the prospect of being in power they could not unite.

Without calling names, Mr. Padmore, in referring to a "Trinidad Guardian" story last week which stated that Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, leader of the Alliance, had asked for a report on the matter, said:

"Can you imagine a response like that? But I will tell you this, he will not get a report.

"He will not get a report because he has no power..he has not got the capacity to impose his will if he does not get a report. And you know, if the Press carries this they might get some derisory document saying, 'well I got my instructions mixed up and I did not intend to vote against party directives.'"

CLEARLY DEFINED

Mr. Padmore said that the PNM had clearly defined mechanisms to deal with such a situation and he could not imagine the PNM's Political Leader calling for a report.

Coming down on the news media handling of the matter, Minister Padmore said one would never read editorials of Opposition disunity or see a banner headline "Accommodation dis-accommodation before they start."

He continued:

"You will see nothing like that in the Press but can you imagine what the headlines would have been if it was the PNM involved, and when we tell them that the Press bias, they would write an editorial saying it is a figment of Mr. Padmore's imagination.

"Ah mean to say, you mean to say my imagination has so much fig in it?" (laughter).

Again without calling his name, Mr. Padmore said the Suruj Rambachan issue concerning his Arrival Day outburst was a "hot potato" in the ranks of the Opposition and they did not know how to handle it.

Quamina Analysis

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 Aug 85 pp 12, 21

[Article by Anthony Milne]

[Text] **EYEBROWS** were raised recently when Alvan Quamina, general secretary of the People's National Movement, told the annual conference of the party's Arima constituency organisation that the PNM is "dead."

But Quamina, who is 47 today, told the EXPRESS last week in an interview at his office at Balisier House, PNM headquarters, that he was in fact making a subtle distinction between what he calls the euphoric term PNM and the People's National Movement itself. A subtle distinction, he agrees.

"My talk in Arima was entitled *A Case for the People's National Movement Organisation*," he said, "and what I submitted was that the term PNM is essentially a rallying cry, a symbol which in some ways has usurped the functioning of the bona fide organisation called the People's National Movement."

This may sound like meaningless cant to some, but Quamina said he was trying to explain that the euphoria and success of the PNM in the past is something too insubstantial for the party's purposes today.

"Too many people now accept the easy way rather than the arduous way," he explained, "not remembering that the easiest way is often the costliest."

"Too many people have jumped on the PNM party bandwagon; too many people are just using the party; some party people have become vain or inflexible."

Might this apply to members of the government as well?

"I wouldn't go so far," he said. "I don't like to mess with the government. I am a party man and I view the separation of party and government like the separation of Church and State, with as little interference between the two as possible."

But the party, he insists, is not in any kind of crisis,

though party members must begin to work harder, to spread the real message of the party which seems to have become confused in some people's minds.

"You have to remember," he stressed, "that the PNM is not a party in the ordinary sense, it is a rally, a convention of people, as the People's Charter says."

And it is not simply a matter of politics either; it is not that Quamina is afraid his party will succumb in the next election. The PNM, in a sense, is a way of life.

"We have to recognise clearly that the People's National Movement is in a new era," he maintained, "when the excitement of the past must be put aside for the hard decisions that have to be made in order to face the social pressures today."

Quamina came to the PNM in 1971 after returning from the United States where he spent 15 years. He left Trinidad in 1956, just before the party won its first election.

He has degrees in history and, more specifically, church history. He is an ordained Fundamentalist Baptist Minister ("American Baptist, not local").

"I had always wanted to come back," he said, "and when I heard about the uprising in 1970 I returned to see for myself."

While he did not agree with the methods used then, he felt "people were experiencing the need for recognition and involvement in the total scope of the society, particularly economically and socially."

That is the chief reason he joined the PNM: he felt the party could provide that transformation. He still thinks so 15 years later.

He became party Education Officer in 1975 and general secretary, a full-time salaried position (in effect the party's chief executive officer on day to day basis), in 1981.

Today, Quamina is not perturbed by what some people see as a decline in popularity of the party, or of Political Leader George Chambers — with the proliferation of Chambers jokes, for example.

He dismissed reports that former party man John O'Halloran, a member of the Cabinet for many years) passed bribe money on to the party instead of keeping it himself.

At the time that charge was made, Quamina stressed, the party's overdraft amounted to half a million dollars.

Neither is he worried by the results of polls published in this newspaper dealing with the popularity of politicians and parties.

He refuses to believe, in fact, that there has been any decline in his party's appeal. He said the party now has about 100,000 members, with 2,500 new applications for membership every year.

He is not worried either by boos Government Ministers have been receiving at public functions ("Are they specific or general boos?" he asked).

Isn't there a new and specific challenge from the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR)?

"New parties don't bother me," he declared. "This is not complacency or arrogance, I just focus on taking care of the immediate."

This kind of coalition has taken place before.

"It appears to happen every five years or so, quite coincidentally," he observed. "But I suppose they wouldn't go through this whole exercise if they felt it was futile."

Besides, the PNM's own information system, the process of consultation at every level, indicates no decline in popularity.

"The people who say those things don't understand what George Chambers is about," he insisted. "He has vast political experience. They forget he was made Political Leader in 1981 by acclamation, that he has represented St Ann's East, where one of the more

vibrant constituency organisations exists, for a considerable number of years."

Indeed, the Political Leader could not have headed the party as effectively as he has if he didn't have "a certain astuteness."

All this will be again made manifest at the PNM's next big convention due in October, Quamina predicts, as soon as the Political Leader's meet-the-party tour, soon to be resumed, is over.

4 October 1985

Chambers' Comments

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 25 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers yesterday cynically described the amalgamated Opposition parties which have formed the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) as a "test tube" entity.

Without actually mentioning its name, Chambers, who was opening a weekend seminar of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) in his capacity as political leader, handed over a copy of the NAR's "Platform for Democracy" document to the PNM's general secretary, Alvan Quamina, for appropriate action.

Speaking at the Chatam Youth Camp in South Trinidad, Chambers highly praised a conference background paper prepared by Public Utilities Minister Dr. Cuthbert Joseph.

Chambers, who said it was easily one of the most penetrating analyses of the PNM, continued: "And as I read Dr. Joseph's paper this morning (before coming to the conference) and in contemplation of this discussion that will take place on it, I could not help reflect on the fact that after a series of still births, concubinage, shotgun marriages, and the latest attempt at a test tube (loud laughter followed by a minor interruption).... and the latest attempt at a test tube, you will have put before you a document on September 8 (1985) representing the collective views of the giants in opposition to the PNM, such as they are, which I now make public."

NAR'S MANIFESTO

Chambers then passed on the draft NAR document (which the "Guardian" published in part last week) to Quamina, while saying: "I make no comments on the contents of the document; that is for another time. I turn it over to the general secretary for such action as he deems expedient in this kind of forum."

"But I see many things here (in the NAR paper, which Chambers did not say how it came into his possession) we can assail, and legitimately assail, during our workshop."

NAR is holding its first national congress on September 8, at the Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain. A highlight of this event is the ratification of the "Platform for Democracy" which is in effect NAR's manifesto for the next general election.

And today the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) is staging a special conference at the Astor Theatre during which the ONR, a constituent unit of the NAR, is expected to approve the document.

Chambers, who is attending the whole session which concludes tonight, told the "selected" PNM participants that the seminar came at a time of serious local and international issues.

It came at a time when the world, including Trinidad and Tobago, with the possible exception of Japan and China was experiencing an unprecedented recession, at a time when certain world powers were less concerned today with feeding the world than with, perhaps, militarisation of outer space; when the world for the past decade cannot come to terms with a new international economic order, and "when our brothers and sisters in a country known as South Africa are undergoing pressure of a kind not experienced before."

Regardless of what anybody might say, Chambers told his audience, there have been some achievements attributable to the PNM and its members since the party assumed office in 1956.

WORLD WAR

Returning to the situation in South Africa in an indirect manner, Chambers, recalled a conversation he had with his predecessor (Dr. Eric Williams) before his death in 1981. He said:

"The late Prime Minister and political leader (of the PNM), just before his death in a conversation with me, expressed the view that he was convinced that the world was heading for war. But he was not at all sure if the war would come over the Middle East or if it would come over South Africa.

"From the looks of things I myself would hesitate to give an opinion this morning, but what I will say this morning is that the two issues which he raised are as alive today as they were then and, possibly, as dangerous for the peace of all mankind."

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Senator Russell Martineau, who chaired the formal opening session in his capacity as vice chairman of the PNM, in praising the leadership qualities of Chambers, said Trinidad and Tobago was not necessarily the easiest country to lead.

Trinidad and Tobago, he added, was seen by the rest of the world as a country that should be emulated in many respects, but he lamented that the only place where one would hear derogatory things said about Trinidad and Tobago was right here.

Main purpose of the workshop, which has as its theme "Towards the 21st Century," is to examine the role of the party in the march towards the next century and extensive discussions would be held on the past, present and future of the PNM as a party.

CSO: 3298/1002

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NAR PARTIES AGREE ON SEATS; FURTHER ONR DISSENT SURFACES

ONR Personnel Actions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Clewon Raphael]

[Text] ORGANISATION for National Reconstruction (ONR) participation in the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) will be solidified when the ONR holds a special conference on Sunday.

NAR which stages its inaugural Congress on September 8, is an amalgamation of Opposition parties — the United Labour Front, Democratic Action Congress and Tapia House Movement (called the National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago) and the ONR.

To facilitate the strengthening of the relationship, the ONR's constitution is to be amended by way of resolution at the conference which will be the party's last before the NAR meeting to be held at the Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain.

Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Political Leader of the National Alliance, said yesterday that nomination papers for position in NAR must be filed at the regional headquarters of NATT, Barataria Roundabout, by Wednesday, August 28.

Posts to be filled are: Political Leader, two Deputy Political Leaders, Party Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen.

There will also be elections for a nine-member NAR executive.

At Sunday's ONR meeting party members to face the NAR polls — some 3,000 delegates are expected at the September 8 meeting — will be elected.

Following are the ONR's nominees for the NAR executive, the final nine to be selected on Sunday.

Mr. Clive Pantin, ONR's First Vice-Chairman; Mr. Neville Hordatt, Alderman Mervyn Assam,

Chairman of the St. George East County Council; Mr. Roy Augustus, ONR's Chairman; Alderman Suruj Rambachan, ONR's Deputy Political Leader;

Dr. Romesh Mootoo, Mr. Ken Ablack, Dr. Anslem St. George, Mr. Anthony Smart, former ONR General Secretary, Valerie Walcott, Mr. Ken Butcher, Mr. Lennox Raphael, ONR's Public Relations Officer;

Margaret Hector, Councillor Arthur Sanderson, Phillip Nunez, Harry Goodial, Robert Maharaj, Premchand Dass, Harry Kuarsingh, Oswald Hem Lee, Ben Brown, Mr. Herbert Atwell, Mr. Sonny Singh, Mr. Ronnie Raincharan, Mr. A. Young Singh, Elma Ramsumair, Gerry Hadeed, Councillor Jensen Fox, Councillor Stanley John, Mr. Ronnie Jones;

Mr. Ivan Williams, Mr. Gerry Yetting, Mrs. P. Ogilvie-Fredericks, Councillor Mrs. Marlene Ambrose, Mrs. Rhonda Baptiste, Mrs. Wendy Ghent, Mr. Alexander Thomas, Mr. Ramesh Persad-Maharaj, Mr. Curtis Pierre, Mrs. Hazel Brown, Mr. T. Rajpaulsingh, Mr. Neil Bhaggan, Mr. Leo Bradshaw, Myrle Stephen and Mr. Frank Francois.

THE TOP POSTS

Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips Political Leader of the ONR, was "overwhelmingly" nominated to two posts — Chairman and Deputy Political Leader of NAR.

Also in the line-up for the chairmanship are Mr. Pantin, Mr. Hordatt, Alderman Assam, Mr. Augustus, Dr. Mootoo, Mr. Joseph, Dr. St. George, Mr. Smart and Mr. Atwell.

Vice-Chairman hopefuls of NAR are Mr. Pantin, Mr. Hordatt, Alderman Assam, Mrs. Hector, Mr. Dass and Mr. Atwell.

One of the important decisions to be taken at Sunday's ONR meeting taking place at the Astor Theatre is adoption of the NAR symbol.

Designed by Mr. John Humphrey, parliamentary representative for St. Augustine (Opposition), it is a combination of the ONR's steel beam and the NATT's triangle symbols.

It is due to be officially released the day after the NAR's inaugural Congress.

Meanwhile, speculation is rife about the report of the committee appointed to investigate the incident generated by the remarks made by Mr. Rambachan at the Indian Arrival Day ceremony in Cedros.

According to reliable sources the team headed by Mr. Dass will "gently tap Suruj on the knuckles." Mr. Hudson-Phillips, who will be delivering the main address, is expected to deal with the report. Political observers pointed to the fact that Mr. Rambachan, who

was re-elected Chairman of the St. Patrick County Council and is in the running for a NAR post, was indicative of the line taken in the report.

However, the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) is making heavy weather of the matter at its current annual constituencies conferences.

Robinson Problem With Councils

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Aug 85 p 16

[Article by Mikey Nahabir]

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

POLITICAL Leader of the National Alliance, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, has the first big task on his hands since he became leader of the party. It is to deal effectively with voting by county councillors in the election of chairmen and vice chairmen of the various councils.

It is not quite clear whether the Alliance members, both councillors and aldermen, had been given a directive as to how they should vote.

But from the results, indications are that they voted according to their consciences. One source said they flouted a directive.

It is reported that Mr. Robinson has called for a report on the flouting of party directives.

Dr. Beau Tewarie, chairman of the Alliance, has been asked to prepare a report on the matter and he has already spoken to Mr. Alloy Lequay, general secretary, asking him to obtain the information to be compiled and sent to the Political Leader.

Mr. Lequay yesterday confirmed that Dr. Tewarie had spoken to him on the matter. He said he would have to get in touch with the party co-ordinators at all the county councils under the control of the Alliance requesting them to submit a report.

The issue started when Alliance members at the county councils under the control of the party voted in different directions thereby causing a split in the casting of votes.

At County St Patrick, Alderman Surujrattan Rambachan (ONR) won by a narrow margin. He received five votes with Alliance Councillor Alvin Mahabir, getting three, and PNM member Rennie Matthews, three.

A similar trend took place at Victoria County Council where the Chairman, Alliance Councillor Latchman Secharan, was voted out of office to be replaced by Councillor Sonilal Mahabir, also of the Alliance.

But chairman Mahabir made it

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quite clear at the St Patrick elections, which he attended, that he did not flout his party's directive.

At Victoria, Councillor Seecharan was sure that he was going to be returned since, it is understood there was a directive in that direction.

At the Caroni County Council, councillors did not vote in Councillor Mulchan Seuchan, as perhaps, directed.

At Nariva-Mayaro yesterday, outgoing chairman Razack Ali appeared to have stepped down voluntarily to give way to Councillor Ramkissoon Nagassar who was voted chairman. It was clear that the Alliance councillors followed a directive to elect a new chairman, according to the councillors themselves.

Only opposition for the post of chairman came from PNM Councillor Frankie Blondell who received one vote to Councillor Nagassar's seven.

Councillor Hansraj Sumairsingh, outgoing chairman of the roads committee, was elected vice-chairman with eight votes.

Composition of the elected members on the borough councils and county councils in the South are as follows:

San Fernando Borough Council: nine PNM, three ONR.

Point Fortin Borough Council: eight PNM.

St Patrick County Council: seven Alliance, four PNM, two ONR.

Victoria County Council — 12 Alliance, one PNM.

Nariva-Mayaro County Council — five Alliance, two PNM, two ONR.

Dissatisfaction in NAR

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

TALK of dissension within the new National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) and weak and indecisive leadership of the National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago (NATT) by ANR Robinson have been dismissed by high-ranking party members in the NATT and ONR.

But one top Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) party official, who wished to remain unnamed, has insisted that Robinson has been found wanting in the way he handled the conduct of the recent internal county council executive elections.

"This was Robinson's first real test and I was not impressed," the ONR official said. "He tried to do something in St Patrick which didn't work; there were problems also in Victoria, Caroni, and Nariva-Mayaro where NATT people refused to follow party directives."

There has also been talk of rifts within the NATT itself, involving rebel Members of Parliament, with problems in Caroni in particular. Opposition Leader Basdeo Pandey

has been away in Britain and Robinson has called for a report on the conduct of the county council executive elections to be drawn up by NATT Chairman Beau Tewarrie.

"What do they want Robinson to be, a dictator?" one high-ranking NATT member, who is also Member of Parliament, asked when contacted by the EXPRESS. "Some of these ONR people behave like fascists. Robinson may be careful but he is not weak or indecisive."

There have also been reports of difficulties in the allocation of Parliamentary constituencies between the ONR and NATT.

ONR Public Relations Officer Lennox Raphael, who has been involved in the contact meetings between the two parties, has denied the charges concerning Robinson.

"There is no such talk coming from the ONR," he told the EXPRESS yesterday, "and any such talk is political mischief, more of which is to be expected between now and the next general election."

ONR Approval of NAR

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] MEMBERS and supporters of the Organisation for National Reconstruction were exhorted yesterday to close ranks and do not succumb to divisive tactics of the ONR's "political enemies" over the Suruj Rambachan controversy.

Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, Political Leader of the ONR, in doing so at a special conference of the party, also warned that the problems in Trinidad and Tobago cannot be solved by the incumbent government as the problems were created by the Government.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips sounded the warning while exonerating Mr. Rambachan, Deputy Political Leader of the ONR, based on the findings of a committee set up to investigate the outburst by Mr. Rambachan at the Indian Arrival Day ceremony in Cedros this year.

Two other important activities took place at the morning session of the all-day conference which was held at the Astor Theatre in Port-of-Spain. The party's constitution was amended to facilitate it joining up with other political parties to form the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

And, appointment of a committee, headed by the ONR's first Chairman, Mr. Herbert Atwell, to monitor developments in the NAR, particularly with respect to the public's attitude to and against NAR.

Dealing with the Rambachan affair which his critics labelled as being racist after he called for greater exposure of East Indian culture on TTT, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said the committee recommended that the party's deputy political leader should be elected and not appointed by the Political Leader.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips rejected the team's recommendation on the ground that he was not in a position to do so as the ONR's constitution would have to be amended to achieve this.

He was also of the viewpoint that status quo should remain [phrase [indistinct] the greatest harmony in the accomplishment of objective and also to ensure the maintenance of that delicate balance which we seek to strike in the community as a whole."

FORWARD MARCH

Mr. Hudson-Phillips accepted a second recommendation that Mr. Rambachan should not be asked to submit his resignation.

The ONR leader, who returned to Grenada yesterday afternoon to prosecute in the Maurice Bishop murder trial, continued:

"I am aware of the fact that this matter caused considerable irritation among members of the ONR, including the hardworking national executive of the party.

"I, however, exhort you all at this stage, particularly at this stage, to close ranks. I repeat now is the time for us to close ranks (applause). Now is the time for us to march forward as one.

"It is necessary to forgive and forget. This small incident I hope has had its salutary effect on the deputy political leader in whom I am well pleased (applause).

"We are dealing today with a situation; the political opposition is looking for the slightest excuse, the slightest excuse. We cannot afford to give the political enemies ammunition."

Criticising the July-August Europe and Fast East trip by an official delegation headed by Prime Minister Mr. George Chambers, he claimed nothing would be achieved as long as this Government was in power.

It was not the first time a Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago went on such a mission to the Far East and nothing was achieved then, he said.

Continuing on local issues, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said the serious

social and economic problems facing the country were the creation of the government and he told his audience:

"No one can convince me, for instance, that the present drug problem in Trinidad and Tobago does not have a direct relationship with this government.

"No one is going to persuade me that the Rentrenchment and Severance Benefits Bill which does not make provisions for public officers and those employed by the state is any serious attempt at tackling the social problem.

"We have the growing spectre in Trinidad and Tobago of a government that cannot choose a commissioner of police or a chief justice.

"I know of no other country in the world where such an important office has been dragged into the arena of vulgar political squabbling. It is disgraceful."

Seat Allocation Issue

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

ORGANISATION for National Reconstruction (ONR) will not be part of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) unless the question of the allocation of seats is settled by September 8 — the date fixed for the NAR's inaugural Congress.

This was decided during the post-lunch special conference of the ONR yesterday which also saw the election of ONR's candidates to contest posts at the NAR meeting.

Mr. Roy Augustus, the ONR's Chairman, announced to the delegates and observers that the ONR had already drawn up a contingency plan in the event that the party had to "go it alone" for the next general election.

The decision was taken after the meeting amended the ONR's constitution allowing the party to become a solidified unit of NAR.

Conference also approved a resolution permitting the recall of ONR members elected to executive positions in NAR if these persons do not conform with ONR's directives and policies.

Mr. Herbert Atwell, the first Chairman of the ONR, was yesterday elected as the ONR's nominee for chairmanship of NAR. Because of the constitutional provision in NAR, Mr. Atwell is automatically the Chairman of NAR — if the thorny allocation issue is settled by the September 8 deadline.

The ONR's candidate for the Vice-Chairmanships of NAR is Mr. Clive Pantin, while the ONR's Political Leader, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, was elected by acclamation as Deputy

[words illegible]

NATT Team

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

Chairman of the National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Beau Tewarie announced yesterday that the Alliance team for nomination to the NAR had been selected after a meeting of the Alliance Monday night. The NAR will hold its Inaugural Conference on Sunday, September 8.

Heading the team are: ANR Robinson — Political Leader, with the Alliance choice for Deputy Political Leader Basdeo Panday and Nizam Mohammed as vice chairman.

Other members are: John Humphrey; Winston Dookeran; Kelvin Ramnath; Trevor Sudama; Dr Martin Sampath; Pam-

ela Nicholson; Dr Hochoy Charles; Lloyd Taylor and Dr Tewarie.

Dr Tewarie added that he saw no conflict arising with the ONR, which made its nominations to the NAR last Sunday.

Heading the ONR team: Karl Hudson-Phillips, Deputy Political Leader; Herbert Atwell, chairman; Clive Pantin, vice chairman; Surujrattan Rambachan; Roy Augustus; Ken Ablack; Dr Romesh Mootoo; Councillor Arthur Sander-son; Anthony Smart; Philip Nunez; Councillor Jensen Fox and Valerie Walcott.

Tewarie's Views

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 29 Aug 85 p 32

[Text]

NATIONAL ALLIANCE of Trinidad and Tobago (NATT) Chairman Dr Beau Tewarie was authorised by the party to set up a meeting of the contact team, which includes the three main political leaders, to resolve the question of the allocation of seats in the proposed National Alliance for Reconstruction.

Tewarie, speaking to the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk, confirmed that he was in the process of setting up the contact team and he should do so before the end of the week. This contact team would include opposition leader Basdeo Panday, NATT leader ANR Robinson and ONR Leader Karl Hudson Phillips, but at that time he declined to name the other members. That decision, he said, was taken at Monday night NATT's executive meeting.

Tewarie said he was convinced that the question of the allocation of seats could be settled before the September 8, 1985 Congress of National Alliance for Reconstruction. He said although the allocation of seats had not been finally resolved yet there had been an agreement on most of the seats. He noted however, that there were only two outstanding matters to be resolved on this question.

Said he, "But we know that there is enough goodwill on all sides to resolve this matter amicably and in the best interest of NAR. . . Our one greatest desire is to build a cohesive party capable not only of defeating the PNM but offering new ideas of growth and development of the country".

At the last special meeting in Tobago the leaders of the coalition made a firm decision that the Alliance will contest 15 seats. These include the incumbent

seats as well as five other marginal ones. These are, Tobago East, Tobago West, St Augustine, Chaguanas, Couva North, Couva South, Naparima, Tabaquite, Oropouche, Siparia, La Brea, Princes Town, Caroni East, Tunapuna and Ortoire/Mayaro.

A Nariva seat was unresolved with both the ONR and the Alliance laying a claim to it. The ONR had claimed 21 seats including Nariva. The ONR made this claim on the basis that in those seats the party scored the second highest number of votes. However, the ONR remained flexible on this

matter while the Alliance did not concede its right to challenge the ONR on any of the 21 seats.

Tewarie declined to comment on the seats' impasse but pointed out that the Alliance was "irrevocably committed" to the NAR. He said this commitment will continue.

Said Tewarie, "There is definitely much more talented people than the 36 in the Alliance and

ONR so that the question of seats should not be seen as a final allocation of talents in the party. There would be room for many people even outside the party who will be willing to serve the country. In this context, the allocation of seats is not as vital an issue as it sometimes seems."

JPRS-LAM-85-085
4 October 1985

Agreement on Seats

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Sep 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

NATIONAL ALLIANCE for Reconstruction (NAR) leaders, meeting in emergency session in Grenada, during the past two days, have agreed on the allocation of seats for the next Central Government General Election.

This was confirmed yesterday by Mr. Herbert Atwell, ONR's nominee for the chairmanship of the National Alliance for Reconstruction, which holds its inaugural conference on Sunday, September 7, at the Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain.

According to Mr. Atwell, who was appointed Chairman of the ONR only last week, the three top leaders of the NAR — Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Mr. Basdeo Panday and Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips — met in St. George's, Grenada, to hammer out the agreement.

Accord signed by the three leaders agrees that nomination for seats should be in order of performance of parties in the last general elections.

Mr. Lennox Raphael public relations officer of the ONR, released the accord to the "Guardian."

Mr. Robinson, Chairman of Tobago House of Assembly, has been nominated unopposed to be Political Leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

Mr. Panday, Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Hudson-Phillips, Political Leader of the ONR, are tipped to be the two Deputy Political Leaders of the NAR, which is expected to be the main contender against the People's National Movement (PNM) in the coming general election.

According to an NAR statement by Mr. Atwell, released yesterday by Mr. Raphael, "The NAR contact team, comprising the new members of the ONR executive and the newly-elected members of the National Alliance, has fulfilled its mandate and, as a result, accord has been reached on the outstanding issue of seat allocation."

Historic Agreement

The three leaders, he said, met and "signed the historic and momentous agreement."

Mr Panday and Mr Robinson flew to Grenada on Friday morning by private 'plane to meet Mr Hudson-Phillips, who is leading the prosecution in the Maurice Bishop murder trial, which is expected to start today (Monday).

"During their way in Grenada," Mr Atwell stated, "the three leaders were warmly received and often embraced by residents of St George's, who emphasised that unity must prevail, because not only the future of Trinidad and Tobago was at stake, but also that of the entire Caribbean."

Further information on the allocation of seats and Sunday's inaugural conference will be given at an NAR Press Conference, at 11 o'clock this morning, at Holiday Inn, Port-of-Spain.

Members Updated

Mr Robinson and other members of the National Executive Alliance executive met yesterday at Rienzi Complex, in Couva, to bring members up to date on the Grenada Accord.

The ONR National Executive will meet in special session at five o'clock, this afternoon, at ONR headquarters, 10 Albion Street, Port-of-Spain. The party's national committee will meet at 7 p.m. next Friday at ONR headquarters.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for Sunday's NAR inaugural conference, which is open to members and supporters of the ONR and the National Alliance.

In the 1981 general election the ONR polled 91,241 votes, and although not winning a seat and contesting only in Trinidad, came second in 22 constituencies.

The National Alliance (ULF, Tapia and DAC) contested in Trinidad and Tobago and polled 77,380 votes in Trinidad and 9,515 in Tobago, winning eight seats in Trinidad and two in Tobago.

According to the accord, each NAR member party will have the right of first option to nominate candidates in constituencies in which it gained the most votes among member parties in the last election.

However, the accord makes it clear that the final allocation of constituencies and selection of candidates will rest with the Political Leader and the two Deputy Political Leaders after consultation with the Executive of the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

NAR ACCORD, St. George's, Friday, 30th August, 1985.

Inaugural conference asked to agree that with regard to the right of first option by a constituent party to nominate candidates for Parliamentary seats, the principle shall apply that constituent parties shall nominate candidates for Parliamentary seats in the order of

the performance of the parties in the 1981 General Election, provided that not withstanding the foregoing, the final allocation of constituencies and the selection of candidates shall rest with the Political Leader and the two Deputy Political Leaders, after consultation with the Executive of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

Signed:
A.N.R. Robinson
Basdeo Panday
Karl Hudson-Phillips

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Sep 85 p 3

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Sun., (AP):
KARL HUDSON PHILLIPS, prominent Trinidadian barrister and Political Leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), announced here today that the ONR entered into a "federation" with two other Opposition parties in Trinidad and Tobago.

"The three parties are getting together under the banner of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR)," he said, "and we will hold our inaugural conference on September."

Hudson-Phillips said both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Panday should be complimented for their high level of statesmanship and their commitment to the national interest.

"This agreement will allay the fears of a lot of people in Trinidad and Tobago, who feel it was not possible for Opposition groups to come to total agreement," he said. "There is also the feeling that, once the Opposition groups come together, the likelihood of the defeat of the PNM is much greater at the next general elections."

Hudson-Phillips said the three parties in the NAR "federation" would maintain their own identity, even though they would contest the elections under the banner of NAR, but that the getting together had been with a view to eventual merger.

More ONR Defections

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 4 Sep 85 p 1

[Text]

TWO more executive members of the Organisation for National Reconstruction have resigned their positions, with one of them resigning from the party.

St George East County Council Chairman, Alderman Mervyn Assam, and Merle Stephen, have become the latest members to resign their positions. Party Chairman Herbert Atwell said last night that at a meeting of the executive on Monday night both cases were considered and accepted.

Assam, party organiser, submitted his resignation last Friday in what Atwell called a lengthy letter, while Stephen, Women's Officer, gave no reason for her resignation from both executive and party. Councillor

Arthur Sanderson of the St Patrick County Council has replaced Assam as party organiser.

Last week, five executive members also resigned their positions. Former party chairman Roy Augustus, secretary, Stalin Jones, treasurer, Ronald Ramcharan, Education Officer Neville Hordatt and Sports and Cultural Officer Denise Jones gave up their positions "on principle."

Atwell said Assam's lengthy letter indicated that he too was resigning on the question of principle and the party chairman pointed out that this was in keeping with the politics of conscience preached by the ONR. Atwell, who replaced Augustus, said that Assam would continue in his post as chairman of the county council and would continue his active role in party affairs.

All the resignations stem from

an incident involving deputy political leader of the ONR, Alderman Suruj Rambachan, at Cedros during Indian Arrival Day celebrations last May. After an interview on Trinidad and Tobago Television, members of the executive had called for the removal of Rambachan from his post for remarks made during the interview.

However, after a committee was appointed to investigate the charges at a special conference in June, Rambachan was exonerated by Political Leader Karl Hudson-Phillips at the second session of the conference on August 25.

4 October 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MAHABIR CHARACTERIZES NATION'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY THRUST

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 18 Aug 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO is changing its ostrich-in-the-sand posture in foreign policy and opening up to the outside world and international events.

This was the view expressed by Minister of External Affairs Errol Mahabir at a Press briefing called by Prime Minister George Chambers at Whitehall on Friday. Purpose of the briefing was to present the Press with a report on the Far East tour undertaken by the Prime Minister, several Ministers and a team of trade unionists and businessmen.

Mahabir acknowledged that in the recent past, the Government had been criticised for not playing a big enough role in international affairs but said this was changing, "particularly since our membership in the (United Nations) Security Council."

Mahabir added: "We have been approaching the international community with much more openness than we have done before". On that score, Mahabir said, the Far East tour had also served to provide the Government with an opportunity to present its view on a wide range of international events.

Mahabir praised the Prime Minister at the Press briefing for the leadership he displayed during the tour, saying he had written him a personal letter, referring to his "calm, patience and good humour."

In all the countries visited — the United Kingdom, South Korea, Hong Kong, China, India — "we were treated with respect," Mahabir said, and there was much appreciation for the fact that Trinidad and Tobago was "widening its horizons."

At Friday's briefing, the Prime Minister also apologised to the Press

for what he explained was a mix-up on his return home on July 8. He said he had asked Mahabir in London to inform the Ministry of External Affairs in Trinidad that he did not plan to hold a Press conference and was therefore very surprised to see that one had in fact been arranged.

Yesterday, Mahabir 'phoned the SUNDAY EXPRESS to make it clear he had passed on the Prime Minister's instructions to the Permanent Secretary in his Ministry. "I carried out the Prime Minister's directive," Mahabir said.

The Prime Minister appeared annoyed at the suggestion made to him on his arrival that he "say a few words to dem (the Press), nuh." He did not say who put the suggestion to him.

Chambers also confirmed an earlier report that several Hong Kong businessmen, disturbed about the prospects of China taking over Hong Kong in the future, had expressed an interest in migrating to Trinidad and Tobago.

"It's clear," Chambers said, "that there is some nervousness about the future and we were approached by an enormous amount of businessmen who would like to emigrate, not necessarily to the United States or Canada where they would feel lost, but perhaps to a place like Trinidad and Tobago, where we have a democracy, free and manifestly fair elections, and a comparable judicial system."

Industry and Commerce Minister Senator Wendell Mottley, who also accompanied the Prime Minister on the tour, told the Press several countries the delegation had visited regarded Trinidad and Tobago as "a developed country."

Senator Mottley added: "One of the main purposes of our mission was to go out there, to beat the trade routes, to get our industry outward looking. We have to become in Trinidad and Tobago winners in world markets. Private enterprise in Trinidad have got to be come winners in the outside world."

The Prime Minister expressed his "very deep appreciation for the work of the team as a whole." He said whatever the trip had achieved, "none of it would have been possible unless we operated as a team. For me, it was a pleasure and an honour to have had such a team. They acquitted themselves admirably."

CSO: 3298/1003

4 October 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE NOTED FOR FIRST HALF OF 1985

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Aug 85 p 4

[Text]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO has recorded a favourable balance of visible trade totalling \$708 million for the period January to June.

According to the latest report from the Central Statistical Office, this country imported goods worth \$1,830.7 million during the six-month period while total exports amounted to \$2,538.7 million.

A comparison with the same period in 1984 shows that imports have dropped sharply. In the January to June period in 1984, imports stood at \$2,255.4 million and exports at \$2,388.8 million, resulting in a favourable trade balance of \$133.4 million.

The petroleum sector, as always, continues to account for the highest percentage of exports from this country. For period, it has accounted for 78.5 per cent of total exports and 4.2 per cent of imports.

A breakdown of the value of imports and exports for Caricom countries shows that without petroleum products this country would record an unfavourable balance of trade with most of these countries.

For example, trade figures with Jamaica show that imports for January to June with the petroleum sector included, amounted to \$24,489 million and exports amounted to \$26,759 million. Excluding the petroleum sector, imports amounted

to \$24,374 million while exports amounted to \$6,688 million.

A comparison of trade with Caricom countries between January to June this year and the same period in 1984 shows that Trinidad and Tobago has imported less goods from all the Caricom countries except Grenada and St. Vincent. Imports from Guyana, for example, dropped from \$24,291 million in 1984 to \$13,623 million in 1985.

Domestic exports have increased to Dominica, St. Vincent, Saint Lucia, Antigua, St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla, and to The Bahamas.

Exports have decreased to Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, Belize, Grenada and Montserrat. The most significant fall in exports was to Barbados, where this country exported goods worth \$69,570 million in 1984 while in 1985 this dropped to \$60,863 million.

CSO figures for the month of June alone

show that there was once again a favourable balance of visible trade recorded, in the amount of \$124.7 million. This country imported goods valued at \$251.4 million and exported some \$376.1 million. This was an improvement over June of 1984 when imports were valued at \$319 million and exports at \$351.7 million. It reflected a favourable trade balance of \$32.7 million.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DETAILS OF TRADE, ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH PRC

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Aug 85 p 18

[Text] **TRINIDAD and Tobago, and China signed a wide ranging trade and economic agreement during last month's official visit to the Far East and Europe by a delegation headed by Prime Minister George Chambers.**

In the report of the tour prepared by Mr. Chambers the pact with China showed that co-operation was envisaged in a number of areas such as iron and steel products, chemical fertiliser, petroleum and petroleum products.

One article to the agreement binds the countries to confidentiality and it was put this way:

"The contracting parties shall keep confidential any document, information or data received or otherwise coming into its possession in the process of the implementation of this Agreement and shall not give such document or copies thereof nor such information or data to any third party without the prior written approval of the other contracting party."

The full accord with the Chinese which was signed by Prime Minister Chambers and President of the Republic of China, Zhao Ziyang, on July 16 is as follows:

"The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties), desirous of strengthening friendly relations between the two countries and peoples and of promoting the development of trade, economic, scientific and technical co-operation between the two countries, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I: The Contracting Parties shall, on the principles of equality and mutual benefit and in accordance with their needs and capabilities, promote the development of trade, economic, scientific and technical co-operation and make the necessary arrangements

for the attainment of these objectives in conformity with the laws and regulations currently in force in their respective countries.

ARTICLE II: The Contracting Parties shall encourage organisations, corporations and enterprises in their respective countries to strengthen contacts, to conclude trade agreements and contracts, to study specific projects on economic, scientific and technical co-operation and conclude agreements or contracts as may be required to implement such projects.

ARTICLE III: Co-operation envisaged under this Agreement shall be in the following areas:

Trade: iron and steel products, chemical fertiliser, petroleum and petroleum products, natural and refined asphalt and products made therefrom, textiles and garments, household goods and appliances, various foodstuffs and canned goods, agricultural products, animal by products and animal feeds, all kinds of light industrial products, building materials, chemicals and medicines, farm machinery and tools and other kinds of machinery, instruments and equipment, musical instruments.

Economics, Scientific and Technical Co-operation: Co-operation shall cover inter alia areas in agriculture, industry, health, communication and transportation. Specific projects in these areas shall be discussed with a view to reaching agreement thereon according to the needs and capabilities of both Parties.

This Agreement does not in any way limit co-operation between the Contracting Parties to areas mentioned in this Article.

Article IV: The co-operation envisaged under this Agreement shall include:

1. Long-term and short-term arrangements involving the direct importation and exportation of items; compensation trade; and countertrade and other forms of trading arrangements.

2. Investment in State and Private joint venture enterprises.
3. Trade and other exhibitions.
4. Mutual supply of technical services and training of technical personnel.
5. Mutual transfer of patents and technical know-how and licences, subject to contractual obligations.
6. Mutual supply of scientific and technical information and data as well as agricultural and industrial materials for use in scientific experiments.
7. Mutual exchange of experts, technicians and scientists for field study, practice and for the transfer of technical knowledge and for experiments.
8. Any other form of cooperation that may be agreed upon by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE V: The contracting Parties shall, in conformity with the laws in force in their respective countries, provide such facilities as may be agreed upon to enable personnel to carry out their respective obligations and functions under this Agreement or in any separate Agreements or contracts made hereunder.

ARTICLE VI: Any person acting under the authority of one Contracting Party in fulfilling any obligations in the territory of the other Contracting Party under this Agreement, or under any separate contract or agreement, made hereunder shall restrict his activities in the said territory to matters relating to the contract or agreement and shall observe the laws and regulations in force in the said territory.

ARTICLE VII: The Contracting Parties shall keep confidential any document, information or data received or otherwise coming into its possession in the process of the implementation of this Agreement and shall not give such document or copies thereof nor such information or data to any third party without the prior written approval of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE VIII: This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of notification by the two Parties after fulfilling such legal or other procedures as may be necessary and shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be renewed automatically for a further period of five years unless otherwise determined in accordance with the provision of Article IX.

ARTICLE IX: This Agreement may be terminated at any time by either Party giving to the other one year's notice in writing. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the execution of the specific projects and contracts concluded in accordance with this Agreement until their fulfilment or unless the Parties agree otherwise."

CSO: 3298/1003

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TRADE MISSION FROM HAITI MEETS GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS LEADERS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 85 p 3

[Text] A HIGH-level technical team from Haiti paid a courtesy call on Minister of External Affairs Errol Mahabir yesterday morning at his Knowsley office.

The Haitian delegation included Max Antoine Jr, who is head of the cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Eddy Etienne, assistant to the Director-General of the Bank of the Republic of Haiti.

Reynold Desainor, Counsellor in the Haitian Ministry of Trade, was unable to make the trip at the last moment.

At yesterday's session, Minister Mahabir recalled his recent meeting with Haitian Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Robert Estime.

"When I met your Minister of Foreign Affairs," Mahabir told the Haitian delegation, "we spoke about Haiti's interest in importing fertiliser, asphalt, and petroleum products from Trinidad and Tobago and I am glad a mission could come so quickly to discuss this further."

He noted that it had been decided then that the Central Banks of the two countries should discuss how payments might be made for goods purchased, and that Haiti had also expressed an interest in steel and other manufactured goods.

In replying, Antoine noted the improvement in relations between Haiti and Trinidad and

Tobago and said his government looks forward to the implementation of trade between the two countries. He said he is glad to be here to implement the new phase in the relationship between the two countries.

Later on yesterday, the Haitians met officials of Ministries of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, State Enterprises, Energy and Natural Resources, and Finance and Planning.

They were also to meet officials of the Export Development Corporation, Trintoc, Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago, the Central Bank, ISCOTT, the Industrial Development Corporation, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association.

They were to hold in-depth discussions yesterday with Trintoc, the Export Development Corporation, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, and the Ministry of State Enterprises.

Today they are to visit Point Lisas, and to hold discussions with representatives of the National Energy Corporation, ISCOTT, Centrin, Lake Asphalt and Caribbean Steel Mills.

The Haitian delegation will leave tomorrow.

CSO: 3298/1003

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

EXPORT BUSINESS LEADER CITES SUCCESS OF U.S. CBI

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 20 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago is doing well under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), according to chief executive of the Export Development Corporation (EDC), Oscar Alonso.

"We're doing business ... you've got to believe it," Alonso told the EXPRESS yesterday.

Alonso was responding to an article which appeared in "Business America" dated July 22, 1985. The article, which is entitled "CBI: New Investments and Export Contracts" lists 19 countries with which business is being done but does not mention Trinidad and Tobago.

According to a survey conducted by Commerce Department's CBI Centre and carried in the magazine, investment under the CBI in Jamaica since January 1984 amounted to \$48.2 mil-

lion (U.S.) which has helped in the creation of 4,621 jobs; in Costa Rica \$43 million creating 4,456 jobs and in the Dominican Republic \$43.9 million in the creation of 9,789 jobs.

A total of \$208.4 million was invested in the 19 countries and a total of 35,891 jobs were created.

According to Alonso, the United States was this country's largest trading partner and he pointed out that activity in other places was mainly in assembling.

He also indicated that a team of Trinidad and Tobago consultants were at present in Florida conducting a market study in light manufacturing and another team was due to study the East Coast of the United States in September, 1985 to identify markets.

CSO: 3298/1003

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

INCIDENTS MAR EFFORTS FOR FISHING PACT WITH VENEZUELA

Seizure of Fishermen

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Aug 85 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

WHILE negotiations are going on between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela for a new fishing agreement another incident has taken place in the Gulf of Paria, involving local fishermen.

A report from Cedros said that three fishermen from the area were arrested on Wednesday by Venezuelan authorities and taken to Guiria, along with their boat.

Efforts to have the men released were being made up to yesterday when relatives of the arrested men went to Guiria.

It was reported that they were held near Soldado and ordered to Pedernales, then taken to Guiria.

Efforts to contact officials of the Venezuelan Embassy proved futile. However, it is understood that a

report of the incident has been lodged with the embassy.

The governments of both countries are yet to finalise a new fishing agreement.

It is understood that only a few items are to be settled.

Meanwhile, Cedros and Icacos fishermen said yesterday the shrimping season is over and they are concentrating on fish in Trinidad waters. There is no need to enter Venezuela's territorial waters until the shrimping season opens later this year around October-November, they pointed out.

They are hoping that settlement of the new agreement will be arrived at before that time.

4 October 1985

Threats Against Venezuelans

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Aug 85 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

EVERY VENEZUELAN fishing boat which enters the Icacos fishing grounds will from today be asked politely to return to Venezuela. If they don't, we will institute a blockade with our boats to force them to go back home," said Mr. Azim Ali, owner of three boats.

Mr. Ali said, however, he believed the Venezuelan fishermen will start moving into the area from late tomorrow evening since they only fish for two to three days before coming back into the area.

Contemplated action by the Trinidad fishermen resulted from the arrest last Wednesday of three Icacos fishermen near Soldado Rock and held in custody in Guiria, Venezuela.

They were released after paying \$1,000 and returned home on Saturday night.

But the Icacos fishermen are disturbed and hurt over the treatment meted out to the three men. They were allegedly beaten by Venezuelan Coast Guards, and threatened with

several rounds of shots from machine guns when they were arrested.

The fisherman, when interviewed yesterday said that they are forced to take their own action against the Venezuelans because our Government seems unable to solve the problems."

They are soliciting the co-operation of fishermen from Moruga and Erin since they all operate in similar manner between the Waters of Trinidad and Venezuela.

Mr. Ali warned: "From today, any Venezuelan fishing boat seen passing near the Icacos beach will be stopped and advised to return to their country."

Government Action

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Aug 85 p 6

[Text]

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir said yesterday that his Ministry and the Trinidad and Tobago Embassy in Caracas have been following up the question of the detention of Icacos fishermen by the Venezuelan authorities.

The fishermen were held by the Venezuelan police when they were reportedly fishing near Soldado Rock last week.

A news release from the Ministry said yesterday that Mahabir contacted the Venezuelan Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago which had first heard of the incident as did the Ministry from the news media.

The Venezuelan authorities, the release said, indicated that the trawlers were fishing in Venezuelan waters and allegedly using nets larger than those contemplated under the fishing agreement.

In addition, there were substantial amounts of birds in the trawlers. According to the release, Mahabir was assured that there was no damage to the boats nor any violence inflicted upon the fishermen. He was told that the fishermen were required to pay a fine which three of the detained persons paid.

The Minister stated that discussions for a new fishing agreement between Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago was resumed on May 25, 1985. He expressed hope that the few outstanding matters would be resolved at an early date.

He further stated the Trinidad and Tobago Embassy in Caracas had been authorised to negotiate the outstanding issues.

Mahabir also expressed the hope that the first contact between himself and the Venezuelan counterpart would be to sign a new fishing agreement. He also requested an officer from the Embassy in Caracas to be sent immediately to Guiria to conduct an on the spot investigation in the matter.

CSO: 3298/1003

4 October 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LESS RELIANCE ON AMOCO IN NEW MOVES PLANNED BY GOVERNMENT

Natural Gas Scheme

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text] IN A move that is estimated to cost nearly a billion dollars, Trinidad and Tobago plans to extract natural gas from its proven reserves off the country's South-East Consortium marine fields.

It is part of an international package deal, involving some of the world's best known (such as Imperial Chemical Industries) and largest dealers in energy-based products.

Key aspect, according to State Enterprises Minister Ronnie Williams yesterday, is to get out of a present situation whereby the country has to rely on the American firm, Amoco Trinidad Ltd., for our own natural gas supplies.

Mr. Williams said that the project should be on stream by 1989 or 1990, and although it has been said to cost over US \$400 million, he has been advised that this can be lowered.

It is essential for Trinidad and Tobago to remove reliance on one producer (Amoco) and place it in the hands of the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) for many reasons, he disclosed.

NEW ARRANGEMENTS

One is that there are a number of natural gas intensive projects that are being held up because this country has not yet been able to give precise figures over its equity in joint ventures so far proposed. Prices are determined by Amoco.

Amoco, the present producer, sells gas to Trinidad and Tobago. Trintoc has the potential but has not yet drilled commercially for the gas -- and oil -- in the marine bloc that it owns through the Consortium.

A committee under the chairmanship of Mr Frank Rampersad was set up since April to begin negotiations with existing and potential gas producers to work out new arrangements which will enable the National Gas Company (NGC) based on guarantees of availability and prices for present and potential gas consumers.

Industries already here, plus those seen by government as almost certain to come into Trinidad and Tobago, will need 150 million cubic feet of natural gas every day.

This, at present prices, will mean Trinidad and Tobago paying Amoco some US \$32 million a year or about \$TT 76 million.

Government, through the National Energy Commission (NEC), is negotiating with three groups over ammonia production.

The first, said the State Enterprises Minister, is the Danish firm Superfos, in conjunction with another Danish company, Topesoe. They have indicated an interest in a Point Fortin site.

Another group, the French firm Chimie, in a partnership with the Spanish firm Enfersa, is negotiating with the Government. Both those firms are State corporations in their respective countries.

A third partner in that group is Uhde, a branch of the giant engineering company Hoesthe.

And one of the largest fertiliser traders in the world, according to information received by Mr Williams, is Norsk-Hydro which is almost set to join this country in the ammonia field.

UNDESIRABLE POSITION

Trinidad and Tobago will not have majority holdings in the projects. It is understood that natural gas itself will be most, if not all, of Trinidad and Tobago's equity. This is why guaranteed supply and control of the product by this country is so vital.

Mr. Williams said:

"The whole future of the country depends on natural gas. People could talk all about how good a corporate citizen Amoco has been on the basis of the fact that they have a foundation and they give out monies to various charities and sponsor a prizewinning steelband.

"But we are putting ourselves in a very undesirable position if we continue to depend on one producer for our supplies of natural gas.

"I am hoping that by 1989-90 the project will be complete. It is a considerable amount of money, but in the long and the short run, the country will be a lot better off. To be frank, when you are dependent on a monopoly supply, the country can be squeezed.

"And I do not think that the country should be held to ransom. This is why Cabinet came to the decision that steps should be taken to remove the reliance by Trinidad and Tobago on one supplier alone."

'Tough' Negotiating Stand

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text] — TRINIDAD and Tobago is toughening its negotiating lines with the American-based Amoco Trinidad oil company for at least three reasons.

One, this country's team of negotiators feels that Amoco is taking too much of a hard line over sale prices and production guarantees of natural gas.

Two, Fertrin, which is 51 per cent owned by the State and 49 per cent by Amoco, is seen as necessary for total control by the country because, like the basic natural gas, it is a major part of the country's chemical and energy thrust. The minority shareholder, Amoco, does not want to relinquish its shares nor its physical assets at Fertrin's Point Lisas plant.

Three, back in 1973, Amoco, it is alleged, signed a contract with an American firm which would have meant the virtual giving away of Trinidad and Tobago's natural gas for years.

Yesterday, Amoco's director Mr. Eugene Bertrand said that ongoing negotiations are at too much of a delicate level for the company to give a comment.

Pressed to comment on information reaching the "Guardian" that the Trinidad and Tobago team, under Mr. Frank Rampersad and which includes some of the country's top oil technocrats, was accusing Amoco of being hedgy, the Amoco top official declined to comment, except to ask "what would you say if you were in either Amoco's or the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's position right now?"

The Government has stated clear-

ly that the country's future depends on natural gas, which is now produced from marine wells under the control of Amoco and sold to Trinidad.

It has indicated that it has the financial support and the foreign technical assistance to drill its own wells for natural gas and oil production in the South East Consortium, thereby freeing itself from the virtual Amoco monopoly.

Yesterday, an official in the Ministry of State Enterprises said that just before the oil boom in 1973, Amoco signed a contract with a company, then known as the Peoples' Gas Company, through which Amoco guaranteed a natural gas supply to the United States-based firm.

"It would have been really a giveaway," said State Enterprises Minister Ronnie Williams who was contacted later for comment.

The official at the Ministry said that for some reason, Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams, then in power, refused to sanction the deal and it crashed.

The Peoples' Gas Company, which would have had an ironclad contract for natural gas at an incredibly low price of 25 cents for 1,000 cubic feet, then changed its name or merged with the US firm MIDCON and later worked out a deal over energy supply for Amoco fields.

Mr. Bertrand said that must have been before his time at Amoco.

A Leverage

It was disclosed yesterday that Fertrin, the joint venture chemical plant, sells ammonia products to the totally Trinidad and Tobago-owned urea plant at world prices.

This the government finds unfair. Main reason is that the urea plant will never be viable under those conditions.

But Amoco insists that ammonia will not be sold at cost, and it will not sell the Fertrin plant.

But, said a reliable source, the government of Trinidad and Tobago has three giant global companies on its side, a leverage which is now being used in the talks to wrest Amoco's hold on the natural gas necessary for fertiliser, chemicals, oil and steel production.

Amoco, said a high-level government source, had said it will not sell its interest on inshore Trinidad except under duress. Trinidad and Tobago, looking for a partner in an ammonia enterprise that will fuel its urea pressure from Amoco, a government source backed by statements from Minister Ronnie Williams, declared.

CSO: 3298/1005

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PROMISING OUTLOOK FOR PETROLEUM INDUSTRY REPORTED

FL022032 Bridgetown CANA in English 1939 GMT 2 Sep 85

[Text] Toronto, 2 Sep—Outlook for the oil sector of Trinidad and Tobago is mildly positive in the near term but refinery operations in the country will provide the greatest challenge to the oil industry, according to the Stock Market Digest.

In its August 1985 issue, the Digest, published twice a year by SJK (no further expansion provided) consultants of Mississauga, Ontario, also states that the medium- and long-term outlook for the oil sector in the Caribbean twin-island state is positive, as oil prices are forecast to stabilize towards the end of the decade and rise as we enter the decade of the 1990s.

Outlook for refinery operations, however, remains poor and will provide the greatest challenge to the industry, it said.

The Digest notes that of the three major product areas of the Trinidad and Tobago Oil and Gas Industry, natural gas offers the best potential for future growth.

It suggests that growth might evolve in several ways, including more ammonia and methanol capacity and more power generation. Expansion in ammonia and methanol appears most promising, according to the Digest.

In a market commentary, the publication states that although most of the areas of Trinidad and Tobago's economy continue to contract, it appears that the process of adjustment is beginning to have some positive effects, as price increases have moderated, the rate of decline in foreign exchange reserves has slowed and merchandise trade balance remains positive.

Developments in the foreign sector were moderately positive as the balance of trade remained in surplus, mainly as a result of a decline in imports, the Digest reports. However, problems continue to plague investors in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Digest mentions the continuing losses at the state-run Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) and oil refining operations.

It also says that the private sector, in the face of huge losses, appears to have been accelerating layoffs in anticipation of the passing of a highly controversial retrenchment bill now before the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament. If it becomes law, it will give claims by employees for severance pay prior lien on all company assets, above all other creditors including banks, the Digest notes.

4 October 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNION ON 'RED ALERT' DUE TO POOR INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Aug 85 p 14

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO

OILFIELDS Workers Trade Union has placed its 18,000 - plus membership on "red alert" because of the continuing deteriorating industrial relations climate in the country.

Mr Errol McLeod, First Vice President said yesterday that the action is the beginning of Phase Two of the union's "action plan" aimed at preventing further retrenchment, wage freezes, rising unemployment, taking away of existing conditions of employment, among other things.

He noted that the continuing deterioration of industrial relations in the country is having adverse effects on the population as a whole.

First phase of the union's "action plan" was marked with a public demonstration held last May 18 in San Fernando in the call for peace, bread and justice.

MIDDAY MEETINGS

Now the OWTU has started Phase Two of the "action plan" which is taking the form, in the first instance, of midday meetings by workers at companies where the union has representation, spot meetings, and the wearing of red arm bands by workers.

The situation is somewhat "tense" particularly in the oil industry, according to oilworkers interviewed. And the existing situation at Caribbean Tyre Company Limited at Point Fortin where the company has embarked on a re-

trenchment programme for economic reasons, is cause for concern, said a union official, because the union does not believe that the company was having the problems it is complaining of.

Meanwhile the OWTU, through Mr McLeod, is calling on the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, Mr John Donaldson, seeking his "personal intervention in a matter of grave concern" regarding the employees of the tyre firm.

Mr McLeod sent a letter, dated August 20, to the Minister informing him that the matter relates to the retrenchment of nearly half of the company's work force and to take effect on August 31.

Mr McLeod told the Minister in the letter that "there is no doubt that Trinidad and Tobago's economy is going through some serious problems at the hands of the international money manipulators and partly as a result of our failure to own and control the commanding heights of our economy.

"But there is absolutely no doubt that many of the employers in our midst are using the so-called downturn in our economic fortunes to 'cry wolf.'"

CSO: 3298/1004

4 October 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT REPORTS 1984 LOSSES IN MILLIONS BY STATE FIRMS

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 18 Aug 85 p 3

[Text] **MINISTER of State Enterprises Ronald Williams** disclosed last night stated that State-owned corporations had lost a whopping \$376,149,114 in 1984 1984.

Delivering the feature address at the 24th annual conference of the South Port of Spain Constituency Group of the People's National Movement, Williams, who is the Parliamentary Representative for the area, said: "Overall losses in all State corporations for 1984 is \$376,149,114, of which \$290 million went to Caroni and \$176 million to ISCO/TT."

Williams, who said the estimates were unaudited preliminary figures, told party members at the South-East Port of Spain Government Secondary School last night: "We of the People's National Movement are honest and direct with people. We tell the truth,

And continuing along this line, he said that the Trinidad Cement Company Ltd suffered losses to the tune of \$30.1 million and Lake Asphalt, \$3 million.

But the news was not all grim. The Trinidad and Tobago Oil Co., Ltd (TRINTOC) made a profit of \$166.7 million; National Petroleum Company Ltd, \$8.5 mil-

lion; National Gas Company, \$59.6 million; Trinidad Tesoro, \$103.1 million; Fertrin, \$41.9 million; Trinidad Nitrogen, \$6.3 million; Trinidad Flour Mills, \$10 million; and PLIPDECO, \$870,000.

Stating that some 32,000 persons were employed by State enterprises, Williams told the conference: "... An estimated 160,000 people are dependent on those jobs. Those 32,000 earned a little more than a billion dollars."

State enterprises, he said, were the biggest conglomerates, not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but in the whole Caribbean.

"Just look at the private conglomerates," he said, "look at what's happening with Neal and Massey ... of course, they are all going to blame it on the Government. For the Government is the favourite whipping boy of the private sector enterprises and the press."

"But let me say this, not one of the private sector enterprises has done anything to develop the national resources of Trinidad and Tobago. It is only your PNM Government that has done that."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

POLICE SEARCH OF GOVERNMENT CRITIC'S OFFICE PROTESTED

FL271918 Bridgetown CANA in English 1805 GMT 27 Aug 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, 27 Aug--There has been widespread condemnation of the Trinidad and Tobago police following a search last week of the legal offices of lawyer and human rights campaigner Ramesh Maharaj.

Among persons denouncing the police action were parliamentary opposition leader Basdeo Panday and chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly ANR Robinson, tipped to be the leader of a major new opposition alliance.

I believe that (the search) was a fishing expedition or to terrorise Mr Maharaj because of the anti-government stand he's been taking, Panday said.

Robinson said Maharaj, chairman of a local human rights bureau, had on occasion been an acute embarrassment to the government in his professional capacity. There was no doubt that the police action was vindictive and improperly motivated, he said.

It was inconceivable that the police would engage in such aggressive action against such a prominent personality without the complicity of the minister of national security and the prime minister, added Robinson.

Police said the reason for the search was to find the original copy of an affidavit of a witness in a murder trial who had changed testimonies.

Acting director of public Prosecutions Victor Nunez said the police were not being vindictive. Their concern is in solving a crime which has been apparently committed in respect to which there has been an attempt to pervert the course of public justice, he said.

Maharaj, chairman of a local human rights group, complained in Barbados yesterday about what he said were growing incidences of police abuse here, saying the police were virtually a law unto themselves and the government was doing nothing to keep them in check.

The local press today quoted him as saying he intended to sue the state for invasion of rights and denial of protection of the law in that the rights of his clients to privacy had been infringed upon.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

TESORO-WORKERS ACCORD--An agreement was reached at the Ministry of Labour between Trinidad and Tesero Petroleum Company Limited and the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) for a new collective agreement on behalf of the company's hourly and weekly rated workers. The agreement provided for an interim wage increase for the first five years ranging from \$12.96 per hour for the general labourer to \$16.84 and a half cents for grade A tradesmen. Parties have agreed to refer this issue to the Industrial Court for final determination. The agreement also provides for improved Cost of Living Allowance of 35 cents per hour for every one point rise on the index of the retail prices. The company also agreed to review the existing pensions and pensioners for an in gratia basis not later than 30 September 1985 and will implement such adjustments as are decided upon not later than 31 October 1985 as far as is practicable. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 85 p 6]

CSO: 3298/1005

4 October 1985

TURKS AND CAICOS

FRANCIS DELIVERS BUDGET PLAN WITH TAX INCREASES

Details of Proposals

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 4 Jul 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

IN HIS budget speech, Mr. Nathaniel Francis said the U.K. government had offered \$1.63 million in grant-in-aid for 1985/86; a reduction of \$1 million, but revealed later in his address that the day before Britain had agreed to a further \$850,000 for development aid which would be used for various projects in all the islands after discussion with the British Development Division.

The Chief Minister began by saying it was undeniable there had been an economic downturn in recent months which it was difficult to quantify. Recent tourist figures showed that for the first four months of the year arrivals were up by more than 5,000 but all islands except Provo had experienced a decline.

The economic decline was undoubtedly due to the dominant force in world economy — the phenomenal rise in the U.S. dollar. Consequently, potential American visitors had been tempted away to better-value destinations while potential European visits may have been discouraged from crossing the Atlantic for their holidays.

"The background economic picture," he added, "has

not been one particularly conducive to sustained growth or well-being in these Islands. The best we can hope for is a substantial strengthening of European currencies against the U.S. dollar, combined with vigorous economic growth and low inflation in the U.S. . . ."

The preparation of the budget, added Mr. Francis, had been long, difficult and complex. The British Development Division team reviewed the 1984/85 progress last October, and the accounting officer produced estimates in December prior to the formal budgetary aid review in January.

"However, between the review and the receipt of the findings the downturn in the economy was so abrupt as to warrant significant changes in some major elements of both review and expenditure. It was at this stage that it became apparent that drastic measures were necessary in order to present a balanced budget."

After outlining extra taxes which have been levied, the Chief Minister said a subsequent review of the position highlighted the need both to control expenditure and raise

further revenue. This was a problem which regrettably could not be delayed.

"Realising the state of the economy," he added, "and the effect of further taxation it was rightly decided that much more emphasis should be placed on the control of expenditure, and members will note that the overall level of expenditure will be less than the 1984/85 out-turn."

After the budgetary aid review it became apparent that further discussions with the British Development Division were necessary. "The needs of the Islands, as demonstrated by the budget, are \$1.785 million and my government has requested the U.K. government to consider our case sympathetically. Unfortunately, I was forced to postpone the proposed visit to England which was arranged for mid-June owing to the illness of my wife, but I hope it will be possible to re-schedule it for later in the year.

"Discussions will, of course, be wide ranging but I

intend to expand on the very useful discussions which took place recently to reassure HMG that the Turks and Caicos Islands government intends to play a meaningful and responsible role in the administration of the country and to place on record my government's desire to become financially independent, I repeat financially independent. However, I must add that our partial reliance on budgetary aid will undoubtedly continue for a few years yet."

IT WAS only by the introduction of strict cash limits, said Mr. Nathaniel Francis, that total spending was contained to its proposed level of \$12.445 million for 1985/86.

The major increases are:

Governor and staff — \$90,734; Attorney General — \$100,540; Health and Education — \$134,057; Works, Utilities and Fisheries — \$228,013; and Finance — \$396,621.

Turning to Development Fund estimates, Mr. Francis said the Caicos ferry project is well on the way to completion and will ease the problem of supply to Middle and North Caicos.

On Providenciales airport, he said it was a pity the runway was not built to an adequate standard to start with and that so much valuable and scarce development money had to be committed to it so soon after the airport was opened.

The court house was completed, and garaging for fire tenders at Grand Turk airport is also nearly ready.

The Grand Turk jetty will need over \$400,000 spent on it this year and work should be completed by Christmas.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Police Force will receive a new VHF system, giving them a much needed upgrading of their communications network.

The re-alignment of the Leeward Highway on Provo is now virtually complete.

The BDD has approved \$70,000 for an EKG heart scan machine and resuscitation equipment for the hospital. This has been ordered and will be air freighted from the United Kingdom as early as possible.

Outlining some of the government's future plans, Mr. Francis said it was in the final stages of obtaining approval from BDD for two water projects costing \$170,000 — the first phase of the water storage interlink in Grand Turk, connecting the town catchment and storages, and catchment and storage at Residency Hill, South Caicos.

Other schemes included completion of the South Caicos dock, and the upgrading of the electricity system prior to privatisation later in the year.

Turning to the private sector, Mr. Francis said there was a distinct prospect of a very large development at Leeward Going Through, with a reported \$200 million to be invested over 15 years. He was in advanced stages of negotiations for a modern hotel on Grand Turk, with prospects of another at Hotel Beach. Bob Wilson, an American businessman, was about to introduce a light industry project on Grand Turk.

At Salt Cay, there seemed to be certainty for a small project in the salt industry. On each of the other islands, too, there were signs of development.

Mr. Ariel Misick told the House the government is to issue written guidelines to the Business Licensing Commit-

tee in relation to dealings with applications for licences. Those guidelines will, among other things, identify areas which are to be reserved for Islanders. Expatriate businesses already licensed will not be affected by these guidelines, he added.

The business licensing ordinance would be amended or re-drafted to give it more teeth.

Turning to the finance centre, Mr. Misick said that last year it contributed some \$1 million to government revenue. "There have been wild and unfounded allegations of companies registered in these Islands opting for other jurisdictions. These allegations are simply not true. . . . It appears there has been a decline in the number of new registrations. This decline was temporary and the number of new company formations are now on the increase."

Later in the session, he added, he would be introducing a Bill in relation to trusts. This Bill should increase the attractiveness of these Islands as a place for the administration of certain kinds of trusts, with the consequent increase in offshore activity and government revenue.

On tourism, Mr. Misick said he was far from happy with the performance, particularly on Grand Turk. Provo fared better and Club Med planned to build another 50 rooms this winter.

Opposition Objections

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 4 Jul 85 p 8

[Text]

OPPOSITION Deputy Leader Oswald Skippings attacked the budget two days before it was presented to the House. Waving an advance copy of the estimates at a street meeting at West Road, Grand Turk, he hammered away at the government for imposing more tax increases on people who, he said, were not in a position to pay because they have no jobs and no prospects.

"I bring you more bad news," he told a crowd of about 150, and proceeded to itemise new legislation which, he said, would need to raise about half of the \$12 million budget from local resources.

"You, the consumers, will have to pay again," he added.

Mr. Skippings also attacked the British government for providing less grant-in-aid this year, and said the message from the United Kingdom was that the Islands accept full colonialism, with administrators to run affairs here, or independence.

Earlier, Chairman Edward Taylor said the prestige of the Turks and Caicos Islands was so low that "on Fridays we don't know where the next dollar is coming from." He decided that the United States, United Kingdom and Bahamas governments were dissatisfied with the way the PNP were running things.

On the tax increases, Mr. Taylor said: "We can't take this amount of tax the government is pressuring us with. All governments must find taxes, but we must have jobs to pay the taxes."

Lewis Astwood told the meeting the government was a ship travelling without a rudder. "The Chief Minister got washed overboard and he can't steer the ship.

"To save this country, the PNP must go. There is no short cut, they must go. Now is the time for these people to leave town or we will run them out of town," he added.

At another meeting Wednesday night Mr. Astwood tried to encourage people to take part in Thursday's demonstration saying, "I stand for you, you stand for me." He also made comparisons between the country's present problems and those of 1975, "when the Junkanoo Brothers had to make a stand for betterment."

PDM Demonstration

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 4 Jul 85 p 3

[Text]

MEMBERS of the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) staged a demonstration last Thursday as the Legislative Council met.

About 60 demonstrators bearing placards filed into the central yard of the government complex at about 9:30 a.m. Their main statement was displayed on a large banner which had proceeded their march from PDM headquarters. It read:

"We the people demand the resignation of this PNP government now. Get rid of corruption, high prices, unemployment, excess taxation and customs duties, disability, victimisation, misappropriation of government funds, misappropriation of land.

"Restore integrity in government, confidence in investors, able leadership, high standards of education and health.

"Let us build a better Turks and Caicos."

Although several government officials observed the demonstration from the wings of the government buildings, and Deputy Chief Minister **Robert Hall** came to the balcony to acknowledge the small crowd, they were not directly addressed.

The group filed out again at 10 a.m. after the members of LegCo had passed to their chambers to begin the budget session.

The demonstration was quiet and orderly throughout.

CSO: 3298/1010

4 October 1985

TURKS AND CAICOS

LEADERS COMMENT ON DRUGS WAR, SEEK TREATY WITH U.S.

Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 4 Jul 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

CHIEF Minister Nathaniel Francis is to lead a delegation to Washington to assure the United States that his government is solidly against drug trafficking and will work with them and the Bahamas to stamp it out.

He told LegCo: "Towards this end we will never stand idly by and allow our Islands, or any part thereof, who trade in it or who seek to use these Islands as a base, or staging post, for their evil and pernicious trade.

"We are only too aware that such illegal activities can only destroy government's efforts in promoting our Islands as tranquil and relaxed tourist destinations and attractions and also as a clean and legitimate finance centre.

"We cannot any longer regard this dreadful curse on mankind as not being a problem of ours while we do recognise, because of our insular geographic position, we are a stepping stone and vulnerable to the protection and destruction of our great friend the United States."

He called on the United States to shoulder responsibility, financially and technically, to stamp out the drug trade. Mr. Francis pointed out to the House that his not making a policy statement on drugs immediately after taking office had caused some concern to members of the government.

The government is to seek a treaty of co-operation with

THERE was a clash in the Legislature between Mr. Clement Howell, leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Ariel Misick, Minister of Development and Commerce, over threats to freedom.

Mr. Howell said democracy was under attack, and referred to an editorial in the *News* about censorship. Mr. Misick replied that to his knowledge no ministers had ever made an approach to the newspaper.

the United States in relation to narcotic activities, similar to that signed a year ago by the Cayman Islands, Ariel Misick, Minister of Development and Tourism, told the House.

Mr Misick said that when he was recently in the Cayman Islands he spoke to members of the financial community and to the Attorney General there about their experience of the operation and effect of the treaty.

"I am told by the Attorney General of the Cayman Islands that he is satisfied with the operation of the treaty which has resulted in some five requests to the Cayman Islands authorities, all of which have been genuine cases of criminality.

"I am convinced that the Turks and Caicos Islands can only benefit by entering such a treaty with the United States. It would signal to the world that we are clean and want to be clean and will keep out those whose presence would be inimical to the growth of these islands as a reputable tax haven.

Later in the year, therefore, the government intended to commence negotiations with the U.S. government on a similar treaty to that of the Cayman Islands. It might be, he added, that the government would conclude a more comprehensive treaty providing for mutual assistance in criminality.

"I cannot see," said Mr. Misick, "that there is anything wrong with such an approach provided that it does not include tax offences and provided that it contains adequate provisions for due process of law."

CSO: 3298/1010

TURKS AND CAICOS

BRIEFS

CANADIAN AID--The Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica, Mr D. D. Reece, held talks with the Chief Minister, N.J.S. Francis and the minister for tourism, commerce and development, Ariel Misick, during his farewell visit last week. Mr Misick told the NEWS they discussed the Canadian aid programme, which essentially will bring in \$100,000 for small projects in the Turks and Caicos. "We have to decide what those projects will be," he said. Mr John Cashin, development finance officer, will be identifying possible projects. The three men also discussed the regional airport project, which has been in the making for some time. It deals with airport improvements, mostly along the lines of fire-fighting equipment and "electrical gadgets." According to Mr Misick, this project will be continuing over the next few years. Another subject of discussion was trade--trade between the Islands and Canada in terms of Canadian goods being sold on the market here. The commissioner also talked about possibilities for increasing the tourist traffic from Canada to here. Said Mr Misick about the meeting: "I think it was very useful. It could improve our relationship with Canada. [Text] [Grand Turk TURKS & CAICOS NEWS in English 11 Jul 85 p 12]

CSO: 3298/1011

URUGUAY

FAU DEPUTY FAVORS CLOSER RAPPORT WITH BLANCO PARTY

Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 17 Jul 85 p 8

[Interview with Broad Front Deputy Nelson Lorenzo Rovira, of the Independent Democratic Left (IDI); date and place not given]

[Text] Broad Front Deputy Nelson Lorenzo Rovira, of the Independent Democratic Left sector, says that the Agreement "has not benefitted the Broad Front," and that President Sanguinetti is "allied with the Armed Forces" and "is threatening the other sectors" to prevent them from adopting positions offensive to the military.

In an interview granted to BUSQUEDA, Lorenzo questioned the results of the Agreement, and said that he advocates closer relations between the leftist coalition and the National Party.

This legislator explained his disagreement with the motion made by the Broad Front bench calling for the appointment of a commission to study the mechanisms for revoking Institutional Act No 19, which he called a delaying action, and the reasons which led him to take certain political steps on his own.

Lorenzo drafted a proposal which would give the investigative commissions authority differing from that proposed by his bench, and he filed a suit for "violation of the Constitution" against former president Juan Maria Bordaberry and the military junta which effected the coup d'etat in 1973.

Speaking of the internal situation in the IDI, from the leadership of which his group, the Popular Union, and other sectors withdrew, Lorenzo preferred to remain outside the current disputes as a contribution to internal unity, and said that he will be answerable to those who voted for him.

He admitted that within the Broad Front, his sector has moved closer to the Communist Party of Uruguay (PCU), as a function of points of tactical and ideological agreement.

Interpreting the Base Level

[Question] You did not go along with the Broad Front motion to appoint a commission to study the mechanisms for revoking Act No 19. What was the reason for this position?

[Answer] I believe that this motion did not fully reflect or correspond to the position the Broad Front had adopted at its plenary session in favor of the revocation of Act No 19.

This motion gave the impression that there was no urgency to this step, and created a likelihood of delay which we could not in any way support.

We regret that no agreement was reached with the National Party.

[Question] Despite the freedom of the legislators as to voting, isn't it traditional for the Broad Front bench to support the majority decision? It has been noted on many occasions that you act independent of the rest of the bench. Why is this?

[Answer] Apart from the fact that there should and does exist party discipline within the Broad Front, we owe it to the base levels and the plenary session of the Broad Front to interpret the former to the latter, although often the communication is not too easy.

We are in constant contact with the base levels and we believe we know what they think. Someone inspired by ill will might think that we are acting in a rather undisciplined way. The fact is that there are positions we cannot abandon. In the preelectoral period, we urge that Institutional Act No 19 be immediately revoked, for which reason we are working toward this, and the Front is now drafting a proposal for its revocation.

[Question] During the Chamber of Deputies sessions, you sat alone in the last row of the Broad Front bench sector. Why?

[Answer] Attention was drawn to this, but I must say that it had nothing to do with any problem in connection with the other comrades. Sitting in the back provided a better view of the entire chamber and allowed me to concentrate on what I was doing. It is only a method of working, and not due to relationship problems. However I do not want to conceal the fact that differences very often exist, which is normal in politics and in the Front, which is made up of various groups.

[Question] But there are in addition some political facts. For example, you submitted your own draft concerning special authority for the investigative commissions in the Parliament, without the support of the bench, and when it had already put forth general recommendations. Recently you filed charges in court against former president Bordaberry and the military junta which carried out the coup d'etat. These are two quite important political decisions which you carried forward alone.

[Answer] Where the authority of the investigative commissions is concerned, other proposals on which we had not been consulted had been presented with regard to these operational problems which sometimes exist in the bank. Our proposal, to our gratification and that of the comrades who worked on it, was then taken as the basis for the drafting of that which the chamber finally approved.

In any case, I am persuaded that we must maintain independence. Otherwise the Front will lose one of its characteristics--allowing each individual to express his views without hindrance. It is a secret to no one that the IDI is a sector which has defined positions which did not coincide with those of the other groups in the Front. As representatives of this sector in the Parliament, we have some differences we cannot conceal and which we will continue to voice.

With regard to the case filed against Bordaberry and the military officers who effected the coup, I must stress that the charges were made by Nelson Lorenzo as a citizen, and not at all in his capacity as a legislator. We do not believe that any consultation was necessary, although we did talk with Comrade Seregni, who raised no objection.

[Question] How do you expect this trial to end?

[Answer] We expect that the Supreme Court will hear it, since the Constitution provides that it must rule on violations of the Constitution. In addition, we have confidence in the men who make up the judicial body today.

Internal IDI Situation

[Question] Along another line, the IDI has experienced various events within it which has led some groups, including yours, the Popular Union, to withdraw from the leadership. What is your situation with regard to the current leadership of the IDI, as the only legislator in the sector?

[Answer] First of all, I owe a debt to all of the members of the IDI who drafted the slate and decided that I should be the first candidate for deputy. I also owe a debt to all of those who voted for the IDI.

With regard to the differences, I have tried to stand aside, maintaining the independence which strengthens a legislator, rather than committing myself to any of the positions adopted. I do not wish to show any preference for the positions of the Popular Union, although that is the sector with which I am affiliated. If positions in favor of my sector had been adopted, it would have created problems for the IDI, and I believe that the present situation, thanks to the real and effective coordination which is being carried out, will produce a good result, because we have the same goals and objectives.

Verticalism in the Front

[Question] It is said that the IDI is not promoting reorganization within the Front, wherein, in terms of its 1984 electoral strength, it might lose a

substantial proportion of the votes it currently has in the Broad Front plenary session. What is the position of the IDI on reorganization?

[Answer] This is a very complicated matter, but I do not agree that the IDI believes that reorganization now would give it limited weight in terms of electoral voting strength.

Reorganization should not be based on these considerations. We believe that it should be such as to extend a given structure in time, and subjecting it to an electoral decision presumes that there will have to be new changes within 5 years, which is not desirable.

We believe that the basis of reorganization must be a greater role for the base level as a protagonist. In our country, there is a tradition of verticalism, and it exists within the Front. This is not because anyone wants it so, but due to tradition, and because the people are accustomed to having predigested political decisions handed to them.

On the other hand, a large proportion of the base units in the Front are independent and unaffiliated with any political sector, despite the fact that when it comes to elections, they have voted for some of its slates.

Closer Relations With the PCU

[Question] A group is taking shape within the Broad Front, representing what we might call "democratic socialism," including the 99, the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] and the Socialist Party. Might this indicate that the more radical, more "revolutionary" positions, for example those of the IDI and the PCU, are moving closer together?

[Answer] This may well occur. Seregni has repeatedly indicated that it is proper for certain alliances to come about within the Front among sectors which coincide in practice.

In the cases mentioned this is happening, since the approaches to problems do coincide.

[Question] But is this something tactical or ideological? Is it not because both groups have the most clearly defined, most markedly laborite positions, and in the final analysis accept the "dictatorship of the proletariat"?

[Answer] Basically, everything derives from ideological definitions, because they are the basis of strategy. There are sectors to which the IDI is closer, just as the sectors you mentioned previously are acting together at the present time.

Warning From Sanguinetti

[Question] Where the alliance policy is concerned, the Broad Front has opted for agreement. But is this agreement not leading to an increasing and virulent clash between the coalition and the National Party? Aren't the most

progressive Blanco sectors the natural allies of the Uruguayan left, as some Broad Front groups have maintained?

[Answer] Personally, I believe it is necessary to seek closer relations with the National Party.

But I do not believe in agreements on the summit level. I believe in the agreement which the Broad Front can effect with all of the progressive sectors, but not in the agreement of those who use it to box the Front in.

In this instance, the agreement has not provided the Broad Front with benefits. The president of the republic and the governing party are making use of the area of agreement to make it seem a continuing threat to the armed forces.

We are running the risk of spending 5 years suffering from the attitude of President Sanguinetti, who in the final analysis is working as an ally of the armed forces, constantly threatening the other sectors so that they will or will not adopt certain resolutions such as to avoid offending the military.

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CSO: 3348/891

URUGUAY

STUDENT GROUP REJECTS LIST PROPOSAL TERMED RESTRAINING

Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 25 Jul 85 p 17

[Text] The Independent University Faction (CIU), a student group made up for the most part of sympathizers with the CBI, categorically rejected the presentation of single slates by the ASCEEP-FEUU [Federation of Uruguayan University Students] for the coming elections, and the decision of that union to exclude all those who do not support this resolution.

A CIU statement said that its members are prepared "to state clearly that this decision is irresponsible and intolerable, posing a tremendous threat to the FEUU, the universities and the country."

It also said that "it would be much better for the ASCEEP-FEUU as a single body to submit various slates, so that the voter could cast his ballot for the FEUU and at the same time, for the faction which he feels best represents him."

It was also stated that "this resolution will lead to the emergence and submission of slates outside the union by people who find themselves excluded due to this unwise decision, but who do not depart from or abandon the union." In conclusion the statement said that "in this way, the true unionists are being excluded from the FEUU."

The resolution to submit single student slates was approved at the convention of the ASCEEP-FEUU by a broad majority. The motion approved also called for the application by a group to the union for authorization to submit two or more slates, which would have to be approved by two-thirds of the votes in the Federal Council of the student organization.

This body, which is made up of representatives of all the university centers, has resolute powers.

With regard to the notorious decision, the CIU statement said that "democracy does not allow this kind of restriction of the freedom of the students to elect and to be elected," and also that "our founders, like ourselves, could not tolerate such outrages. We are prepared to state clearly that this decision is irresponsible and intolerable, posing a tremendous threat to the FEUU, the universities and the country."

Farther on it stated that "the single slate would threaten the current status of the FEUU, preventing it from overcoming its elitism. In addition," the CIU added, "the single slates favor the more radical sectors of the FEUU, precisely those which have no potential for growth, although they do for shrinkage, in student opinion."

"This is because the possibility of carrying off a meteoric internal election for the shaping of these single slates with broad participation and guarantees is very remote," it was stated.

Dark Negotiations

The document went on to say that "it would not be surprising if we ended up by drafting single lists on the basis of dark negotiations among the leaders of the main groups, or in a vote by a show of hands in the assembly. There is already a precedent for the signed ballot which will be used in the election at the convention, a procedure which violates the minimal guarantees for the casting of votes."

The document said that "it would be much better for the ASCEEP-FEUU as a single body to submit various slates, so that the voter could cast his ballot for the FEUU and at the same time, for the faction which he feels best represents him."

"In the final analysis," it went on to say, "this resolution will lead to the emergence and submission of slates outside the union by people who find themselves excluded due to this unwise decision, but do not depart from or abandon the union. We state clearly that in this way, the true unionists are being excluded from the FEUU."

It was also stressed that the single slates "will favor the winning of a large number of posts in the universities by the anti-FEUU sectors. The right wing will win positions which it otherwise never could."

Finally, the document concluded: "Once again it is necessary to prevent the union from being dominated by a minority which claims to know the absolute truth, with the exclusion of the others, which will lead to systematic alienation from the feeling of the great majority of the students. Change is effected with the people, and not against them."

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CSO: 3348/891

URUGUAY

COLORADO PARTY CHARGED WITH CAMPAIGN AGAINST STUDENT UNION

Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 25 Jul 85 p 17

[Text] Pablo Iturralde, a member of the executive secretariat of the ASCEEP-FEUU [Federation of Uruguayan University Students], has told BUSQUEDA that it is now beginning to be clear that the Colorado Party will launch a great publicity campaign against that student union, and that the submission of slates which it does not support for cogovernment posts in the coming university elections is intended.

He also challenged the assertions contained in a statement by the Independent University Faction which was published by the weekly periodical JAQUE, in which the presentation of single slates by the ASCEEP-FEUU was rejected.

Concerning this statement, which is summarized in a separate article, he said that internal elections will be held within the ASCEEP-FEUU for the drafting of the slates, and, he said, all of the groups can reveal their strength therein.

Pablo Iturralde stated that "as is traditional, the FEUU will present single slates, rising above the differences within it. In other words the union will present itself to the (student) body as a single entity."

"This is not arbitrary," he stressed, "because internal elections will be held for the drafting of the slates, which in no way limits the freedom of the students."

He said that the students "have on the one hand the choice of running in the internal elections of the union, setting forth the positions they support, while on the other hand, those who disagree can draft other slates outside the union."

Moreover, Iturralde said that "I am greatly pleased that JAQUE is beginning to concern itself with the problems of the student movement, since when our convention was held, it did not even publish the results of the elections for the executive secretariat."

"Regrettably this coincides with the time when it is beginning to be clear that the Colorado Party will launch a great publicity campaign against the union, presenting slates outside it for the coming elections. This leaves us wondering about the independence which might characterize this report," he said in conclusion.

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